

TRANSITION CALF HOUSING CHECKLIST

- 1. Does the housing provide enough space for the animals to walk around and lie down?**

If heifers are disturbed frequently while lying down their stress level goes up. This stress is a precondition for illness and poor feed conversion efficiency.

- 2. Does the housing provide a way to identify calves in the post weaning period that are adapting poorly to group life or are sick?**

One way to accomplish this goal is to limit the number of calves per pen to six or eight. Another method is to assign a person to check calves individually each day in post weaning pens.

- 3. Does the housing provide for plenty of fresh air?**

Well-ventilated housing reduces respiratory stress. This stress may be due to (a) excessive moisture levels, (b) exposure to ammonia fumes, and (c) aerosolized pathogens.

- 4. Does the housing provide enough space at grain and roughage feeders?**

More space means less variation in growth rates within pens. Or, if all the heifers in a pen have space to eat at the same time the variation in growth rates in that pen will decrease.

5. Does the housing provide water that is easy to find and use?

Post-weaning heifers that have never experienced group housing need easy, visible and uncrowded access to water. If the facility has a history of contagious diseases providing separate waterers for each pen may reduce rates of sickness.

6. Does the housing provide facilities where heifers can be handled for routine tasks with a minimum of stress (such as sorting, vaccinating, bedding)?

RATE YOURSELF

	YES	NO
1. Housing provides at least 25 square feet of space per heifer to lie down.	_____	_____
2. No more than 8 heifers per pen or a person assigned to check every calf daily.	_____	_____
3. Relative humidity inside is close to that outside the housing and there is no ammonia odor inside the housing.	_____	_____
4. At feeding time there is enough feeding space for all heifers to eat at once.	_____	_____
5. Waterers are easy to access during all weather conditions.	_____	_____

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For Calves with Sam blog go to dairycafcare.blogspot.com

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