

# **TRANSITION HEIFER 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**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>1. Housing provides at least 28 square feet of space per heifer to lie down.</b>	_____	_____
<b>2. No more than 8 heifers per pen or a person assigned to check every calf daily.</b>	_____	_____
<b>3. Relative humidity inside is close to that outside the housing and there is no ammonia odor inside the housing.</b>	_____	_____
<b>4. At feeding time there is enough feeding space for all heifers to eat at once.</b>	_____	_____
<b>5. Waterers are easy to access during all weather conditions.</b>	_____	_____

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