

WATER FEEDING CHECKLIST

How do your procedures measure up? Do they provide the opportunity for your calves to grow into their genetic potential?

Let's consider procedures for water. Compare your routines with the standards in this checklist. When making this evaluation I like to use these scores:

1=never, 2=seldom, 3=often, 4=usually, and 5=almost always.

- _____ 1. During the entire milk feeding period calves have ad-lib access to water during all seasons of the year. Warm water (close to calf body temperature) is preferred to cold water because it encourages a greater volume of intake.

- _____ 2. Good quality water is provided that is free from:
 - urine
 - faeces

- _____ 3. Good quality water is provided that is palatable.

- _____ 4. Good quality water is provided that has low concentrations of:
 - pathogens
 - noxious minerals such as sulfur, iron
 - chemicals such as nitrates or nitrites
 - organic and inorganic contaminants coming from insecticides, birds

- _____ 5. Access to water is not restricted due to:
 - stuck valves and floats
 - clogged nozzles
 - freezing weather
 - water too high to reach
 - excessive contamination