

## WATER: FEEDING PREWEANED CALVES

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 preweaning period calves have free-choice access to water during all seasons of the year.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Good quality water is provided that is free of:
  - urine
  - feces
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Good quality water is provided that is palatable.
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Good quality water is provided that has low concentrations of:
  - pathogens
  - noxious minerals
  - chemicals
  - organic and inorganic contaminants
  
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Access to water is not restricted due to:
  - stuck valves and floats
  - clogged nozzles
  - freezing weather
  - water too high to reach
  - excessive contamination

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For Calves with Sam blog go to [dairycalfcare.blogspot.com](http://dairycalfcare.blogspot.com)

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