

WET CALF HOUSING AND MANAGEMENT

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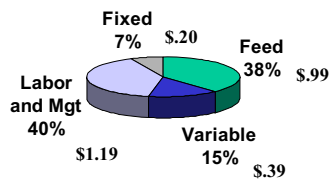
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More details on Calf Housing Environment and Management are printed in the Appendix section of the proceedings. The information relates to bull and heifer calves.

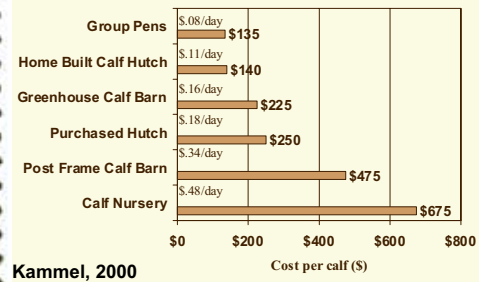
This Presentation will outline housing options for wet calves and highlight key management areas.

Cost Distribution For Calves until Weaning (ICPA Study)

\$2.78/day



Calf Housing Costs (New to Weaning)



Basic needs

- Dry bed
- Enough space
- Fresh air, low draft
- Access to fresh water
- Access to dry feed
- Non-competitive penmates (when grouping)
- Good footing

Adapted from Gawthrop, 2003
7th Annual PDHGA Conference, Green Bay

Disease Control Basics

- Reduce exposure
 - sanitation
 - isolation
 - medication
- Increase resistance
 - vaccination
 - nutrition
 - environment

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Sanitation

What does the calf touch?

Bottles, feeders, gates, walls, waterers,

What touches the calf?

Hands, boots, milk, water, feed,
bedding, other calves

Adapted from Gawthrop, 2003 7th Annual PDHGA Conference, Green Bay

INDIVIDUAL HOUSING OPTIONS

CALF HUTCHES

CALF CONDOS

INSIDE CALF PENS (FRAME-STEEL BUILDING; FABRICATED BUILDING, RENOVATED BARN)

GROUP HOUSING

NURSETTE IN A SUPER HUTCH ACCESS TO OUTSIDE PEN OR PASTURE

AUTOMATIC GROUP FEEDING

WATER



Essential Nutrient for Calves

MANAGEMENT IDEAS TO CONSIDER (adapted from Hayes, 2003 7th Annual PDHGA Conference, Green Bay)

Housing systems

•Place calves in hutches/pens in order of age if possible or arrival at facility. If lose a calf do not fill this space as minimize pathogen exposure and also visual record of death loss;

MANAGEMENT IDEAS TO CONSIDER (adapted from Hayes, 2003 7th Annual PDHGA Conference, Green Bay)

•If use hutches – rotate ground that hutches are placed by year and season; so helps natural sanitation by sun and rain.

•Clean hutches or pen panels same day that calves are moved and let dry/rest as long as possible.







RAISED STALLS

- Calves placed in stalls upon arrival.
- Need good air movement
- Challenge of disease contamination between stalls. If smaller group can go every other stall

RAISED STALLS

- Expect some scouring first few days especially as FPT percentage is high for sale barn calves but less of a problem from direct on-farm pick-up
- Quite labor efficient but limited space for calves can be a concern.
- Usually we will move them out at 8 weeks of age 2-3 weeks after weaning to group pens.





FRAME STEEL BUILDINGS

ALL IN ALL OUT
MANAGEMENT





PROTOCOL EXAMPLE
Pickup and Arrival at SROC Calf and Heifer Facility

Pickup Check: (calves 2 – 4 days old)

1. Make sure calf has a minimum of 3 colostrum feedings
2. Take only healthy heifer calves that walk
3. Observe owners calf/maturnity area for cleanliness

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Arrival Procedures and Checks

1. Check for infected navel cords
 - A. If swollen – NuFlor or Penicillin
 - B. If wet, dip navel with iodine
2. Blood sample – serum protein and BVD carrier
3. Vaccinate (oral) TSV2
4. Record (document) any abnormalities/health problems
5. Bottle feed calf – first feeding
6. Weigh calf, hip height measurement



FABRICATED SYSTEMS:





MANAGEMENT IDEAS TO CONSIDER (adapted from Hayes, 2003 7th Annual PDHGA Conference, Green Bay)

Feeding management:

•Proper storage racks and/or carts for bottles and nipples; larger operations use a dishwasher to clean equipment.

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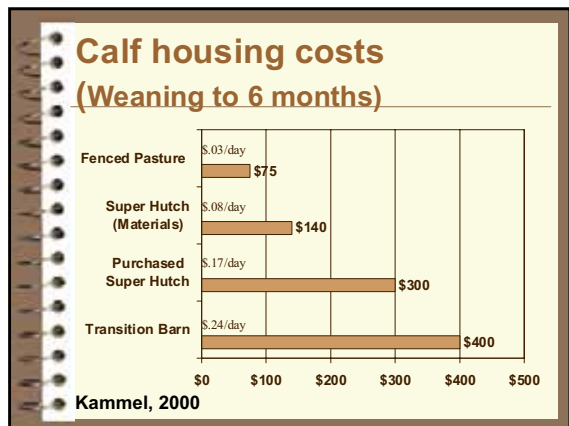
•Some farms have duplicate sets of buckets and/or nipples to allow for sufficient cleaning and drying time.

•Identify individual pens/hutches for calf treatments and if phase feeding milk program (markers, colored clips, or clothes pegs etc).

•Keep good records at all times



**POST WEANING AND
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FOR
HOLSTEIN STEER CALVES**



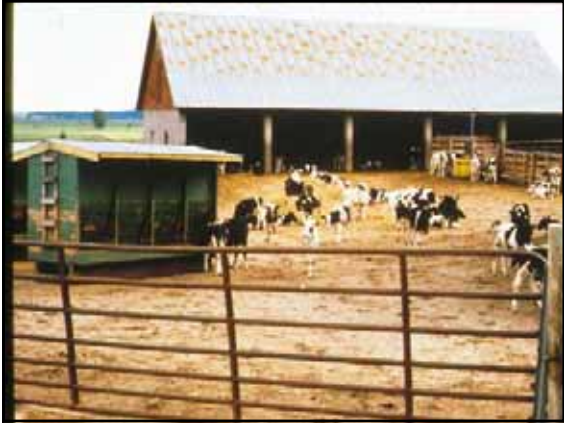
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Transition Housing:

- One of the most critical areas post weaning from individual housing to group pens unless use a pre-weaning group feeding system.

MANAGEMENT IDEAS TO CONSIDER (adapted from Hayes, 2003 7th Annual PDHGA Conference, Green Bay)

- If possible put calves in groups of 10 or less for socialization although it is appreciated that this is more challenging in larger operations.
- Maintain pre-weaning feeding program after moving to minimize stress adjustments.



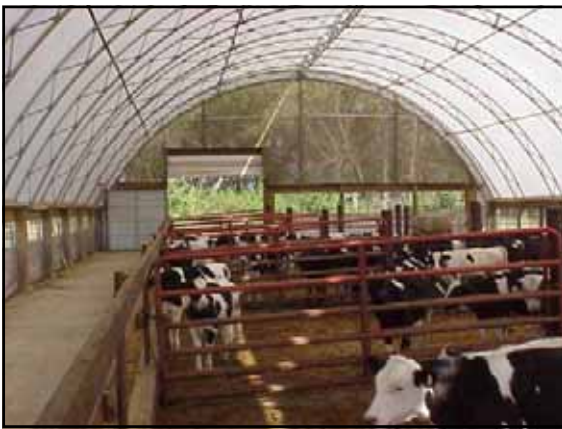
Manure pack pole barn for steers



Open front group pens - Meiers, MN



Bedded every 3 days 1/2 bale/pen,
3 x 3 x 8 ft bales



Things to consider when selecting management and housing alternatives:

- Fundamental needs of the animal must be met.
- Designs should provide an optimum system for efficient labor and feeding management to maintain the quality of the replacement animal.
- There is often a trade off between labor and capital to meet goals and objectives of the calf enterprise