

HUTCH-CALF RAISING QUESTIONNAIRE*

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PRODUCER CONTACT INFORMATION:

**WHAT DOES OWNER /PRODUCER/MANAGER WANT FROM THE VISIT? WHAT ARE THEIR GOALS?
WHAT IS THE PRESENTING COMPLAINT?**

HERD/RANCH DEMOGRAPHICS:

COLOSTRUM

COLOSTRUM SAMPLES

- Culture of colostrum samples just prior to feeding and/or storage
(bacterial count, Mycoplasma culture)

COLOSTRUM COLLECTION

- Who is responsible for milking colostrum
- Where are they milked
- How long after calving are the cows milked
- How are the udders cleaned/prepped prior to collection
- How are the collection buckets cleaned
- Is colostrum pooled or kept separate
- How many milkings are saved
- Is colostrum evaluated?

COLOSTRUM STORAGE

- How long does the colostrum sit at room temperature
- How clean are the storage containers
- Is there debris in the colostrum
- Is the stored colostrum labeled, and with what information
- Is the colostrum heat treated/pasteurized
- How is it determined if it is of good quality (ie colostrometer?)
- If it is frozen:
 - Is it in a frost-free freezer
 - How is it thawed / temperature at feeding

COLOSTRUM FEEDING

- How soon after birth is colostrum fed
- How much is fed
- How many feedings
- Is it fed by bottle or esophageal feeder
- If a calf won't suckle the bottle is it fed by esophageal feeder
- Are any colostrum replacement or colostrum supplements fed
 - if so, which
 - Are they mixed into colostrum or water
 - How many times are they given
- Are calvings observed
- How long do calves stay with their dams
- Do they suckle the dams

TEST OF PASSIVE TRANSFER

- How has success of passive transfer of immunity been determined
- Take blood samples from 12 calves between 2 and 7 days of age for total protein or IgG determination

LIQUID FEEDING PROGRAM

- Do they feed milk or milk replacer
- How much and how many feedings per day
- Pail or bottle
 - How often are they cleaned
 - How are they cleaned
- What temperature is it fed (take temp)

MILK

- Take sample of pre- and post-pasteurized calf milk for culture
- Milk source
 - Does it include mastitis cows
 - What is the quality of the incoming wastemilk?
 - * pH (assess spoilage)
 - * Total solids % (assess added water)
 - * Bacterial count
 - * Smell
- Is it cooled while stored
- How often is storage tank cleaned
- Is it pasteurized
 - What temperature
 - How often is the pasteurizer cleaned
 - How often is the temperature checked
- Any additives to milk

MILK REPLACER

- Brand
 - Protein %
 - Fat %

- Additives
 - lbs of powder per head per day
- Feeding and mixing protocols – watch mixing
 - Total solids % of solution fed to calves?
- Calculate Energy Allowable gain and Protein Allowable gain or Metabolizable energy

MILK BUCKETS OR BOTTLES/NIPPLES

- Maintenance and cleaning protocols
- Swab nipples and bottles to check cleaning/disinfection

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MATERNITY PEN

- Where do cows calve
- Dystocia rate? Stillbirth rate?
- Is it covered by a roof or shade
- How often is the pen cleaned
- How many cows per pen
- Are there sick cows put into maternity pens

HUTCH DESIGN

- What are the hutches made of
- Are hutches indoors or out
- Are the hutches on dirt or concrete
- Is the soil surrounding the hutches dry
- Are there roofs on the hutches
- Assess airflow around the hutches -- Does ventilation seem adequate
- Shade cloth in summer?
- Take the temperature inside and outside a few representative hutches

BEDDING MANAGEMENT

- Is there bedding
 - What
 - How often is it removed
 - How often is more added
 - Depth

HUTCH SANITATION

- Cleanliness of hutches
- How is manure removed: scraped, pressure-washed
- Is a disinfectant used
- How long do the hutches remain empty
- Are the hutches well maintained (ie no broken floors)
- Is there a flush system under hutch rows
 - Where does the flush water originate and go?
 - Is there a complete flush?
 - How often flushed?

SOLID FEED AND WATER

WATER

- Is water available to all calves at all times
- Are buckets clean
- What is cleaning protocol

FEED

-Starter

- What age do they begin to offer
- How often are the buckets refreshed
- How much are they eating at weaning
- Are buckets clean
- Is it medicated (coccidiostat or antibiotic)
- What is it made of (take sample)

-Hay

- Is it offered
- Starting at what age
- How
- What type

CALF HEALTH

BIRTH

- Are calvings observed
- Do many cows calve in close up?
- Are many calves pulled
- How are calves pulled
- Assess stillbirth rates

NAVEL DIPPING

- Are navels dipped
- How soon after birth
- With what (look at bottle and dip cup)
 - Is dip cup clean
 - Where is it stored
- How many calves sampled for Total Proteins show evidence of navel dipping
- Are there large joints or navels

VACCINATIONS

- Do calves receive vaccinations prior to weaning
 - What vaccines
 - At what age
 - What route

RECORDS

- How are calf records kept
- Are treatment or vaccination records kept
- Are numbers of dead known

- Calculate mortality rates for cohorts of calves
- Records of post-mortems

TREATMENT

- Who decides which calves need treatment
- How do they decide what calves to treat
 - Are temperatures taken
 - Has veterinarian previously diagnosed specific diseases
 - If so when, what
- How many people and who are responsible for treatments
- Are necropsies performed regularly on deads?
- Post all dead calves for several weeks during a problem or set up regular schedule

SCOURS

- What percentage of calves have diarrhea
- What age
- What treatments are being given
 - Oral Electrolytes
 - Brand
 - Mixed in milk or water?
 - Volume fed
 - Number of feedings per day
 - Is it tube fed if the calf won't suckle
 - Is it fed in addition to or instead of milk
- Are any IV fluids given; procedure
- Collect fecal samples for bacterial culture, viruses, and cryptosporidia

PNEUMONIA

- How many being treated for pneumonia?
- What age are they?
- What are they treating with
- How long are they treating
- Are they giving NSAIDS – what, how much and how often

WEIGHT GAIN

- What are their goals?
- What is the ADG between entry into hutch and exit to the group pens?
- How is it assessed?

*Adapted from McGuirk. Calf Investigation Form.

<http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/calves.htm>