

CALVING MANAGEMENT TIPS

1. Move cows due to calve to a special calving pasture. The pasture should be easily seen from a road, lane or house and should provide good footing for a newborn calf. Slippery, muddy conditions may prevent the calf from getting to its feet and delay colostrum consumption. If the calf thrashes around in slick mud, it makes that much more work for the cow in cleaning off the calf. ***All that Highland hair is a liability to the newborn calf until it is dry.***
2. Fence cows out of woods and timber but leave windbreaks.
3. Have some area available that is a special calving assistance pen or barn.
4. Keep all calving equipment in a clean plastic container with a cover, that can be easily moved to a truck or calving area.
5. Train your spouse, children and neighbors, if

necessary, to look for signs of labor. Check cows in early afternoon.

6. Count cows at feeding time and check for missing cows.
7. Get a calving video and watch it. Know when and how to assist in labor.
8. Never leave a cow that has started labor to go to bed or work. Cows in active labor should be observed every hour.

Items to Have on Hand for Calving

- Frozen colostrum, you can also use dried purchased colostrum.
- Calf pulling equipment.
- Stomach tube, bottle feeder, thermometer, dry towels.
- Ear tags, navel dip (7% iodine).
- Vitamin E & Selenium, Vitamin A & D injections.

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- Castration and dehorning equipment.
- Therapy for scours and respiratory problems.
- VETERINARIAN'S PHONE NUMBER.

Practice Good Calving Management:

- Provide clean dry area for calving. Clean, frozen or snow covered pasture protected from the wind works well.
- If calving in a barn, keep area well cleaned and bedded. Barns, while comfortable for the manager, are a great place to harbor disease organisms that increase throughout the calving season.
- Make sure calf consumes 1.5-2.0% of its body weight (1-2 quarts) of colostrum within 4-6 hours.