Is your farm ready for calving?

Making sure your farm facilities, calving equipment and personnel are prepared is absolutely key to a successful calving season.

Farm Facilities
- Designate a Calving Area
  - Plan ahead: What will the weather be like? Will you be calving indoors or outside?
  - Clean, dry area that has limited contamination from bacteria
- If Outside: Choose a smaller pasture closer to the house or barn
  - Less area for the cow or heifer to go off and calve by herself
  - Easier to move into a corral or barn to assist with any calving issues
  - Easier to check 24hrs a day
  - Keep in mind ‘Windchill’ and ‘Heat Index’ affects on the Temperature

Plan ahead: What will the weather be like? Will you be calving indoors or outside?

- Clean dry bedding such as straw
- Make sure to clean pens between cow-calf pairs to help prevent the spread of potential infections like calf scours
- Space for multiple cows/heifers to calve at once – individually
- Individual pens (12ft x 12ft minimum) for each pair eliminate potential mix-ups
- Make moveable partitions with metal gates - use plywood or boards on the bottom to reduce draft and prevent calves from sticking their heads through.

- Have a headcatch - This can be a full chute or a headgate that allows for safe handling of the cow/heifer

Building Your Own Calving Kit
Each piece of equipment should be clean and accessible when calving:
- Ear tags and Tagger
- Halter and Rope
- Disposable Ob Breeding Sleeves
- Disposable Gloves
- Stainless Steel Bucket
- Lube (squeeze bottle for easier use)
- Disinfectant (Nolvaxan or Chlrohexidine)
- Clean Ob Chains or Nylon Calf Strap
- Flashlight with Extra Batteries
- 7% Tinture Iodine - Call Naval Dip
- Bottle and Lamb Nipple
- Stomach Tube Feeder
- Alarm Clock – Battery Powered
- Towels and Hair Dryer for Drying a Calf

Personnel: Who’s Helping with Calving?
- Do they know where you keep your calving supplies and how to use them?
- Are they familiar with your farm set up – designated calving area, where gates are?
- Are they familiar with your cattle? Are your cattle familiar with them?
  - Calving is a rough time to introduce new faces
- Who is your Vet?
  - Make sure you have a good relationship with your Vet
  - Keep their number in your calving kit

Get your calving season off to the right start by being prepared

Questions?
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