

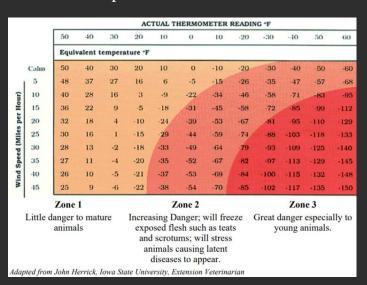
GETTING YOUR FARM READY FOR CALVING

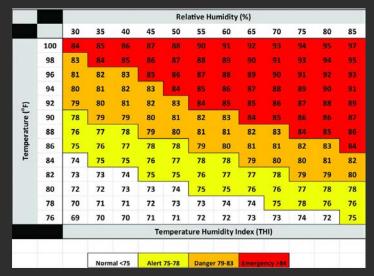
Is your farm ready for calving?

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

<u>Farm Facilites</u>

- 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 barr
 - 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





If Inside: Barn or Calving Barn

- Shelter from the elements wind and cold (minimum 3 walls)
 - 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 (Nolvasan or Chlrohexidine)
- Clean Ob Chains or Nylon Calf Strap
- Flashlight with Extra Batteries
- 7% Tinture Iodine Calf Naval Dip
- Bottle and Lamb Nipple
- Stomach Tube Feeder
- Alarm Clock Battery Powered
- Towels and Hair Dryer for Drying a Calf

<u>Personnel: Who's Helping with Calving?</u>

- 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?