 University of British Columbia Centre for Dairy Education and Research	Document Number	SOP-CALF-003
	Revision Number	000
	Effective Date	June 24, 2020
CALF HOUSING		

1. PURPOSE

1.1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) instructs Farm Workers and students on the humane and proper methods of housing calves at the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This SOP will describe the methods and structures used to house calves (newborn to 3 months) at the UBC Dairy.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

3.1. The Operations Manager is responsible for reviewing and updating this procedure as required.

3.2. The Operations Manager is responsible for ensuring all staff are trained in this procedure and that training is documented.

3.1. Personnel who work in the calf barn are responsible for reading, and following the procedures outlined in this SOP.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. Not applicable


5. TRAINING

5.1. Training will include SOP overview, animal handling, equipment instruction and cleanliness administration.

6. SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

6.1. Personnel handling calves and equipment will follow routine health and safety procedures to protect against human and animal injury.

6.2. All personnel entering the calf barn will need to rinse boots off with hot water. Clean coveralls and close-toed footwear is to be worn when working with calves. When working with newborns, gloves are recommended.

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6.3. Personnel handling large machinery (Bobcat loader) must be properly trained and approved to handle equipment.

7. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

7.1. DeLaval Automatic Milk Feeders

7.2. DeLaval Automatic Grain Feeders

7.3. Insentec Automatic Water bins

7.4. Insentec Feeder bins

7.5. Shavings

7.6. Pitchfork and shovel

7.7. Bobcat loader

8. INDIVIDUALLY HOUSED CALVES

8.1. Unless otherwise noted, all calves are housed in individual pens for the first 5 days of life. This allows the calves time to learn how to bottle feed, and to recover from disbudding.


8.2. Bulls are housed in the same manner as heifers unless they are enrolled in a research project. If a bull is not enrolled in a research project, it is sold at approximately one week of age. After the first colostrum feeding (See SOP on Newborn Calf Care), calves are offered 4 L (2 bottles) of pasteurized milk twice daily, once in the morning (around 8am) and once in the afternoon (around 4pm).

8.2.1. Make note if a calf does not consume at least one bottle (2L) of milk. Consult with a Farm Worker and record in the calf barn day book.

8.3. Individual pens must contain enough shavings to provide cushioning and absorption of future manure, a minimum depth of 15 cm is recommended.

9. GROUP HOUSED CALVES


9.1. Unless otherwise noted, calves are housed in group pens after 5 days of age.

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- 9.2. Group pens are designed to house 10 calves from age 5 days to post-weaning.
- 9.3. Automatic milk feeders need to be checked every day (AM & PM shifts) to ensure they're working properly. Any errors or issues need to be addressed promptly to a Farm Worker. Milk should be dispensing automatically based off a calf's allotted milk quantity.
- 9.4. Monitor individual calf milk and grain intake via the DeLaval Automatic Feeder handheld computer. Consult with a Farm Worker if there are concerns with calf milk consumption and signs of illness. The previous day's consumption of milk and concentrate are recorded on the handheld. Additional consumption information can be found in the calf barn computer room.
 - 9.4.1. During a research project, project leaders are expected to be aware of any issues regarding calf milk intake. Farm Workers and supervisors should be made aware as well.
 - 9.4.2. Forage and concentrate should always be available unless specified otherwise for a research project.
 - 9.4.2.1. Concentrate is supplied through the concentrate bin/concentrate auger located near the pasteurizer room.
 - 9.4.2.2. Forage is located in large tote bags in the calf barn.
 - 9.4.2.3. Report any need for fresh chopped forage to a Farm Worker.
- 9.5. On a weekly basis, dry shavings will be added for optimal animal comfort. Fresh shavings can be applied directly to the pen without the removal of calves.
- 9.6. On a monthly basis, group pen bedding will be removed and replaced.
 - 9.6.1. Calves are temporarily corralled in the alley behind the group pens.
 - 9.6.2. Cleaning of group pens also occurs after moving calves to the heifer barn.

10. METHODS TO REDUCE FLIES

- 10.1. Ensure bedding is kept clean and dry.
- 10.2. Clean any milk spillage after feeding. This is best accomplished by sweeping the alleys in between the individual pens before feeding and hosing down the alley after feeding. Sweeping the alley is an essential step to limit the amount

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of shavings that go down the drain.

11. REFERENCES

- 11.1. CCAC Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals. Volume 1, Second Edition.
- 11.2. CCAC Guidelines on the Care and Use of Farm Animals in Research, Teaching and Testing. 2009
- 11.3. National Farm Animal Council. 2009. Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle.

12. REFERENCE SOP

- 12.1. SOP-Calf-001 Newborn Calf Care

13. APPROVAL AND REVISION HISTORY

Author/Approver		Date	Signature
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