

CALF SECTION

Preparing Your Calf for Calf Club Day



Early Calves are those born between 1st June and 15th July
Late calves are those born between 16th July and 31st August

The calf needs to be selected within 14 days of birth.

Some qualities you will be looking for are:

For a Dairy Calf	For a Beef Calf
A good even temperament	A good even temperament
Good dairy type qualities	Good beef type qualities
A good strong muzzle and large open nostrils	A good strong muzzle and large open nostrils
Eyes that are wide apart, full and bright	Eyes that are wide apart, full and bright
A nice straight top line (back thru the tail setting)	Shoulders that are well covered, broad and round at the top
A nice sleek neck with the shoulders blending into the chine (the bone along the back thru the shoulders) set above the shoulder blades	A broad, long, straight back
A long thin tail	Thick, deep thighs
A good long rib with good spacing between the ribs	Good straight legs, set wide apart
Well placed teats	The back legs should not knock together as it walks
No skin blemishes	No skin blemishes
Shiny coat	Shiny coat

Once the calf is chosen you can begin to take responsibility for the care and feeding of it. You will need – halter, lead, brushes, bucket or cafeteria, at least 1 ½ bags of milk powder per calf and a cover of some sort. As your calf becomes familiar with your looking after it, it will begin to accept training from you.

- All calves must meet legal requirements – All calves MUST have a NAIT tag in their ear, this movement does NOT need to be recorded. They may or may not have a primary ear tag. They also MUST have accompanying TB declaration forms which their NAIT tag number is recorded on.
- Bull calves (attending Calf Club) must be steered or fully castrated six weeks prior to Group Day. (If castrated a vet certificate MUST be presented to the secretary showing date of castration)
- Calves must not be clipped, oiled, singed or dyed.
- Calves are not penalised if they have horns.
- Calves entered must be hand reared by the child entering, using cafeteria, bucket or bottle from approximately four days of age

Feeding Programme

It is important that newborn calves receive several good feeds of colostrums within the first 24 hours. After four days the calf can be removed from its mother and introduced to a milk replacer available from farm supply stores.

Feed as instructions on the bag. Calf meal (available from farm supply stores) and hay give your calf that extra boost. They are easily digested and assist rumen development and can be introduced around two weeks old. Your calf will begin to nibble pasture around this age, so make sure they have good quality pasture and access to clean drinking water. It is very important to keep whatever equipment you use to feed your calf, completely clean – calves can get scours (diarrhoea) from dirty feeding equipment, so clean everything after feeding with hot soapy water and rinse thoroughly. If your calf develops scours, contact your local vet for advice. Always do the feeding of your calf yourself. Make sure the milk is warmed to blood heat (that is warm on your skin).

Housing

Dry and draught free shelter is important. Cold, wet, windy weather will have an effect on your calf. A waterproof shed with clean dry bedding (preferably sawdust) is essential.

Calf Cover

Calf covers help keep your calf warm and help keep it coat looking shiny for Calf Club day. Covers are easily made from sacks that are light and made of synthetic fibre in a woven pattern which allows air to pass through, while keeping the calf warm. A light soft blanket sewn into the inside of the cover will help keep the calf warm. Sew Velcro straps onto the cover to hold it in place. The ideal cover should cover your calf from its shoulders to its rear.

Be sure to watch for rubbing of hair or skin under the Velcro straps. Covers can also be purchased from your local farm supply store.

Grooming Your Calf

For a clean coat and healthy skin, regular brushing is a must. Your calf will have become used to you at feeding time, so at the first sign of loose hair, brushing should start. Never pluck or trim the calf. Hopefully, by Calf Club day all loose hair from the first coat will be removed and the second coat will be fine and silky. Once or twice before Calf Club a wash (providing the weather is fine) may be necessary. Use lukewarm water with a mild soap or shampoo, wet the coat thoroughly to get a good lather. Massage the coat and skin so you get all the dust, dirt and scales of skin out before your rinse it. Clean ears with a damp cloth. In a warm sheltered spot rub the calf dry with a soft towel and brush the coat to restore hair to its correct direction. During brushing of your calf examine it for lice. The neck, brisket and between the front legs are likely places to find them. If your calf has lice, consult your local vet for the best treatment.

Leading

About three –four weeks before Calf Club is plenty of time to start leading your calf. Always lead it to feed, so that it knows there is a reward for going with you. Once your calf is leading, try taking it

to different places so that it gets used to strange surroundings. This will help on Calf Club day.

When leading:

- The right hand should grip the rope, palm upwards, leaving a loop 10-15cm from the halter. This distance is very important and a child who releases the right hand grip will be penalised.
- Hold excess rope in your left hand knuckles up
- You should try to walk at the shoulder of the calf at all times. Neither should be pulling the other. You should learn to stand or move, looking straight ahead and keeping your head up. You will be penalised for leaning on the calf or touching it with your hands.
- You should be careful in turning with your calf. It must be led around the post. You should avoid twisting your hand to push the calf's jaw or using your elbow to push the shoulder. These offences will be penalised. Practise turning.
- You should not hit the calf as this will be penalised.
- All control of the calf should be with the right hand on the lead. You should realise that this hand is the brake, a steering wheel and an accelerator combined. Correct grip with this hand will maintain control.
- Stopping, except as required by the judge, will be penalised.
- You should practise stopping for 3-5 seconds when leading your calf.
- Different judges treat different offences with different severity.
- *The wisest plan is to eliminate all offences.*

Presenting Your Calf

Some important points to remember before you enter the ring

- Make sure the halter and lead are clean
- Clean ears, tail, chin, hooves and under the tail
- Wash off any manure
- Give a final brush to smooth the coat
- Look neat and tidy yourself

In the Ring

- Make sure you do not get between your calf and the judge (except in the leading class)
- Listen well to what the judges say
- Leading is the most important part of the programme

A successful round of leading shows the judge that you've built up a bond over the previous months. The constant attention and training show the trust your calf has towards you.

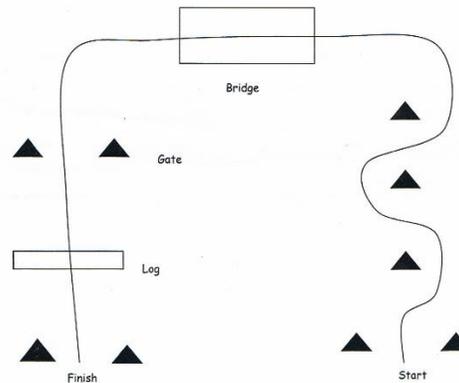
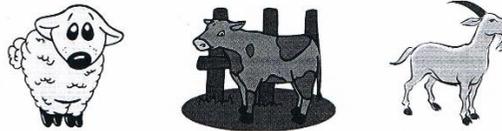
On the Day Bring

- A bucket with any washing equipment so you can spot clean if necessary.
- A cloth and/or brush
- A water bucket so you can give your calf a drink
- Some meal and a feeding container, so you can reward them after a good effort.

Suggested website to obtain more information regarding the care of your animal is www.anexa.co.nz

LEADING COURSE

Course for Calves /Lambs/Goats



- Weave in and out of the standards
- Over bridge without stopping
- Stop at the gate, count to 5 slowly, walk on
- Over the log and Finish