



Calf Rearing Operation



McGaheysville, VA
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Overview

- 2,350 Cow herd
 - 2,000 milking 3X
- 3,000 Young stock
- Double Crop 1,700 Acres
 - Corn
 - Rye
 - Barley
 - Sorghum
- 72 Stall rotary parlor
- 38 Full Time Employees
- Average 8 calvings a day




Calf Program

- Individually housed
 - Calf-Tel hutches
 - 450 Hutches
- 350 to 400 calves on milk
- Pasteurized waste milk
- 3 Full time employees



- Calf Mortality rate
 - 0 to 2 Months
 - 0.01% (18 out of 1728)
- Pasteurized waste/whole milk
- Housing – Individual Calf Hutches



New Born Calf Protocols

- **Calving Area**
 - Clean
 - Dry
- **Colostrum Management**
 - Fresh (24 to 48 Hours)
 - 2nd lactation dam or greater
 - 1 gallon at birth

- **Calf Procedures**
 - Tag calf
 - Record dam information
 - Dip navel
 - Place in a clean and dry area
 - Feed within 1 to 2 hours after birth



Clean dry area to calve



Trailer with heat lamp and straw

Hutch Management

- **Goals**

- Clean
- Dry
- Sanitary

- **Equipment Needed**

- Skid Steer
- Pickup Truck
- Power Washer
- Sanitizer

- **Procedures**

- Remove buckets and holders
- Clean up manure/used gravel
- Spread Ag. Lyme
- Fresh gravel
- Sanitize cleaned hutch and wire
- Straw Bedding



Before calves are moved



Hutches are removed



Hutches before removal



Lyme spread to kill bacteria



Clean Gravel Spread Over Lyme



Newly Bedded Hutches



Power Washing Each Hutch



Deep Straw

Nutrition

• Rations

- Pasteurized waste and whole milk
- Custom calf grain mix
- Free choice water at all times



Feeding Schedule

- Birth to 2 weeks
 - 1 bottle 2x daily
- 2 to 4 weeks
 - 2/3 gallon 2x daily
 - Start on Starter Grain at 2 weeks
- 4 to 6 weeks
 - 3/4 gallon 2x daily
- 6 to 7 weeks
 - 1 gallon 2x daily
- 7 to 8 weeks
 - Reduce milk to 1/2 gallon 2x daily

Pasteurization

- 300 Gallon Bulk Milk Tank
- Connected to a hot water heater and a timer
- Milk is manually cooled
- Fed within 30 min after cooling
- Tank is hand washed and sanitized after each pasteurization



Grain Ration

Recipe Information		DM Values		AF Values	
Name:	SmallH9Can	Total DM Qty:	99.32	Total AF Qty:	112.31
Description:	Small Heifer Grain Mix	Cost/Unit:	\$0.1371	Cost/Unit:	\$0.1213
Density Factor:	100 %	Cost/Ton:	\$274.28	Cost/Ton:	\$242.55
Premix:	False	Overall DM%:	85.43%		
Assigned:	Yes				

Ingredients		Mix Seq	DM Qty % of DM	AF Qty % of AF	Delay	AF Cost/Ton	AF Cost/Unit	DM Cost/Ton	DM Cost/Unit	Cost
Clarify Shad	Fly control	1.00	0.01 0.01%	0.01 0.01%	0.00	\$6000.00	\$3.0000	\$6000.00	\$3.0000	\$0.03
Wheat/Midd H	Commodity/Bay	2.00	29.42 29.62%	32.69 29.11%	0.00	\$166.00	\$0.0826	\$183.33	\$0.0917	\$2.70
Cr-Meal, Dry H	Commodity/Bay	3.00	19.62 19.66%	22.44 19.88%	0.00	\$207.00	\$0.1035	\$237.93	\$0.1190	\$2.32
H8 Min Rum	Commodity/Bay	4.00	2.90 2.92%	2.50 2.23%	0.00	\$520.00	\$0.2600	\$520.00	\$0.2600	\$0.65
Sweet Water/H	Com Bytup	5.00	3.80 3.82%	5.81 5.17%	0.00	\$198.00	\$0.0990	\$319.36	\$0.1597	\$0.57
Distiller H	Commodity/Bay	6.00	4.70 4.73%	5.00 4.45%	0.00	\$295.00	\$0.1475	\$313.83	\$0.1569	\$0.74
Coat. B Hulls	Commodity/Bay	7.00	23.37 23.53%	26.26 23.38%	0.00	\$227.00	\$0.1135	\$256.08	\$0.1275	\$2.98
Canola M. W	Shad	8.00	16.20 16.31%	17.61 15.68%	5.00	\$412.16	\$0.2061	\$448.00	\$0.2240	\$3.83

- **Cost/Ton:** \$242.55
- **Cost/Lb:** \$0.137

Feeding Equipment



Vaccinations/Medication

• Vaccinations

- At birth
 - Inforce 3
- 4 to 6 weeks
 - At dehorning
 - One Shot
 - Covexin 8
 - Inforce 3 (2nd Dose)
- 9 weeks
 - Pink Eye Vaccination



Weaning

- 7 weeks
 - Calves must be eating 5-8 lbs of grain a day
 - Reduced to ½ gallon 2X a day for 1 week
 - Grain 2X a day
- 8 weeks
 - Water and grain
 - 10-16 lbs of grain a day
 - Left in hutch for no less than 1 week
- 9 plus weeks
 - Moved to group housing

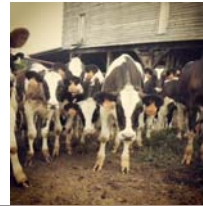


Costs

- Labor
 - 3 Full Time
 - \$10/hour
 - 120hrs/week
 - 400 calves
 - = \$4/calf per week
 - \$24
 - Feed
 - Grain
 - 300 lbs
 - \$.137/lb
 - \$42
- Feed
 - Milk
 - 112 gallons = 963 lbs
 - \$22/cwt
 - \$211
- Vaccinations
 - ~ \$15
- Other
 - Gravel, disinfectant, fuel
 - ~20
- Total
 - \$312
 - \$5.20/calf/day

Requirements for Success

- Clean, dry housing
- Proper calving procedures
- Colostrum management
- Properly pasteurized milk
 - Bacteria
 - Disease
- Equipment
 - Functioning properly
 - Ability to deliver a consistent product
 - Timing
 - Quantity
- Communication
- Early detection of sickness



Challenges

- Weather
 - Extremes
 - Ventilation
 - Re bedding
- Labor
 - Weaning process
- Hutch availability



Advice

- Try new ideas
- Ask for help
- Trying to keep costs as low as possible isn't always the best option

