



## Calf Shed Preparations

Over the next month while you await the arrival of your first calf and the start of the new season, it is the ideal time to ensure that your calf rearing sheds are set up correctly.

Here are some helpful tips for setting up:

### Pens

- ◆ Each calf requires 1.5m<sup>2</sup> of floor space initially. This increases to 2.5m<sup>2</sup> from 3 weeks of age. Measure your pens to determine their maximum capacity.
- ◆ Contact between calves in different pens should be limited by solid partitions to prevent the spread of disease.
- ◆ Pens should be free of sharp hazards (wires, edge of corrugated iron) and holes.

### Bedding Material

- ◆ Each pen should have at least 300mm of new bedding material that has been sprayed with an appropriate disinfectant e.g. Vetacide.
- ◆ Straw, wood shavings (not treated) or bark can be used
- ◆ Bedding must be absorbent and drain well so calves are not lying in urine/faeces.
- ◆ Bedding should be regularly topped up to ensure that it stays clean and dry.
- ◆ All bedding should be replaced between different batches of calves.
- ◆ Bedding under feeders/water troughs should be monitored carefully and replaced frequently as these areas tend to become wet and contaminated with faeces/urine.

### Water Troughs

- ◆ Calves must always have access to fresh clean water.
- ◆ Water troughs need to be cleaned and leak tested before and during the season.
- ◆ Ideally troughs should be at the front of the calf shed.

### Milk Feeders

- ◆ Ensure feeders are cleaned thoroughly before the season and then between every feed.
- ◆ Teats should be replaced at the beginning of the season to ensure they do not leak.

### Straw/Hay Feeders / Meal Troughs

- ◆ Racks, nets and feeders should be off the ground so that calves can't step or sleep in them. This also minimises faecal/urine contamination of the feed and feeders.

Clutha Vets offers a Calf Shed and Systems check service that can help you set up your shed to optimise and facilitate a successful calf rearing season. Contact Balclutha or Milton clinics for more details.

### Calf Rearing Toolkit

- Tube feeder
- Brix Refractometer (for colostrum)
- Naval Spray: iodine (spirit based)
- Neck bands
- Ear tags & taggers
- Gloves
- Disinfectant
- Tail paint
- Thermometer
- Measuring jug
- Electrolytes
- Spare feeder teat
- Notebook and pen