

HEALTHY FARMS LARGE

ANIMAL VETERINARY SERVICES



ALISON CORNWALL DVM

HEALTHYFARMSVET@GMAIL.COM

979 US ROUTE 2, MIDDLESEX, VT 05602 WWW.HEALTHYFARMSVET.COM 802.505.9639

---

## **Newborn Calf Management:**

- 1) Calving areas and equipment used on newborn calves must be very, very clean! Make sure to clean the calving pen between births. Clean all buckets and nipples well. As frequently as possible, but at least every few weeks during heavy calving seasons the calving pen should be stripped and power washed with disinfectant.
- 2) Newborns should immediately be placed by their mother's heads to be licked clean of fetal membranes and fluids.
- 3) All newborn calves should be fed (or tubed with if necessary) 2-4L of high quality colostrum. A colostrometer should be used to test colostrum quality. Jersey calves will need 2 L, larger calves and Holstein calves should receive 4 L. It is best if the animals suckle the colostrum as opposed to being tubed with colostrum. Pasteurized colostrum is excellent if it is available.
- 4) Calves need to be protected from temperature extremes: Temperatures above 50 degrees Fahrenheit are preferred. Temperatures below 30 degrees are not tolerated well by newborn calves and the animals will require an external source of warmth (such as a heat lamp) to thrive. Temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees are borderline and an external source of warmth is recommended.
- 5) Whole milk is the best food for young calves. Consider keeping calves on whole milk for the first 2 weeks of life. Calves need 15% of their body weight in milk per day, over 2-4 feedings. This translates to almost two gallons of whole milk or milk replacer for a 100 lb cow. 10% of body weight per day is the absolute minimum that calves should be fed.
- 6) Vaccinate calves per your vaccination protocol at 1-3 days of age (Enforce-3 recommended).
- 7) Calves will benefit from a Bo-Se injection if the cows are not supplemented with selenium.