

CALF PEN SANITATION

1. PURPOSE

Maintaining clean pens are essential in keeping the animals clean and thereby reducing the spread of environmental pathogens to a newborn calf and to wounds and injuries.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 All permanent, casual and student staff
- 2.2 Dairy Barn Manager

3. MATERIALS

- 3.1 Wheelbarrow
- 3.2 Pitch fork or Plastic bedding fork
- 3.3 Shovel
- 3.4 Broom
- 3.5 Wood Shavings
- 3.6 Straw
- 3.7 Limestone
- 3.8 Virkon®
- 3.9 Gloves
- 3.10 Mask

4. GENERAL

- 4.1 Calf Pens are thoroughly cleaned daily (preferably in the morning).
- 4.2 Assess the cleanliness and of the animal to determine if a tie stall has an adequate level of cleanliness. Appropriate corrective action must be taken when the level of cleanliness is inadequate. Refer to SOP [DC-304: Dairy Cow Cleanliness Assessment](#).
- 4.3 Pens which have been exposed to calves with contagious infections MUST follow disinfection procedures.(see Section 5.4)

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1 CALVES ON STRAW BEDDING:
 - 5.1.1 Remove any calf feed and hay from the feed mangers before cleaning (to prevent soiling the feed with dirty bedding.
 - 5.1.2 Remove all the manure and urine using pitchfork or plastic bedding fork and shovel. Move the bedding around because soiled bedding and manure might be hiding underneath clean bedding.
 - 5.1.3 Place all soiled bedding into the wheelbarrow.
 - 5.1.4 In warm weather, dump the manure directly into the manure shed, otherwise dump it in the solid manure conveyor at the end of the dairy barn.
 - 5.1.4.1 Start the conveyor
 - 5.1.4.2 Empty the wheelbarrow
 - 5.1.4.3 Stop the conveyor before going back to the calf barn.

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- 5.1.5 When all soiled bedding is removed, spread out any remaining clean wood shavings.
- 5.1.6 Add more wood shaving to provide a thickness of at least 1 inch.
- 5.1.7 Spread out any remaining straw over the wood shavings.
- 5.1.8 Add more straw until the thickness of the straw is equivalent to at least 9 inches.
- 5.1.9 Calf pens with sleeping area at the back of the pen:
 - 5.1.9.1 Straw must be level with the 4x4.
 - 5.1.9.2 Ensure there is enough wood shaving on the floor (front of pen) to absorb urine and feces. If there are too many shavings at the front, the calves may sleep on the floor rather than on the bed.
- 5.2 CALVES ON WOOD SHAVINGS:
 - 5.2.1 Remove any calf feed and hay from the feed mangers before cleaning (to prevent soiling the feed with dirty bedding).
 - 5.2.2 Remove all the manure and urine using plastic bedding fork and shovel. Move the bedding around because soiled bedding and manure might be hiding underneath clean bedding.
 - 5.2.3 Place all soiled bedding into the wheelbarrow.
 - 5.2.4 In warm weather, dump the manure directly into the manure shed, otherwise dump it in the solid manure conveyor at the end of the dairy barn.
 - 5.2.4.1 Start the conveyor
 - 5.2.4.2 Empty the wheel barrow
 - 5.2.4.3 Stop the conveyor before going back to the calf barn.
 - 5.2.5 When all soiled bedding is removed, spread out any remaining clean wood shavings.
 - 5.2.6 Sleep Area:
 - 5.2.6.1 Pens without a pasture mat:
 - 5.2.6.1.1 Add more wood shavings to the sleeping area until it is level with the 4x4.
 - 5.2.6.2 Pens with pasture mats:
 - 5.2.6.2.1 Ensure there is enough bedding for comfort and absorption of urine (about 2 inches thick). Add more wood shaving if necessary.
 - 5.2.6.2.2 Ensure there is enough wood shaving on the floor to absorb urine and feces. If there are too many shavings, the calves may sleep on the floor rather than the bed.
- 5.3 After all calf pens (straw and wood shaving) have been cleaned:
 - 5.3.1 Sweep the wood neck rails and the mangers.
 - 5.3.2 Return all feed back to its respective pen.
 - 5.3.3 Sweep the aisle behind the pens.

5.4 PEN DISINFECTION:

IMPORTANT

Pens that have been exposed to calves with contagious infections **MUST** be disinfected with Virkon® and limestone.

- 5.4.1 Remove all remaining bedding and dump in solid manure conveyor or directly in manure shed.
- 5.4.2 Wash any plastic walls and all metal bars by scrubbing with diluted Virkon®.

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- 5.4.3 Scrape any bedding stuck to the floor.
- 5.4.4 Sweep all remaining bedding out.
- 5.4.5 Allow to air dry.
- 5.4.6 Don a mask and gloves.
- 5.4.7 Disinfect the floor with Virkon®
- 5.4.8 Allow to air dry
- 5.4.9 Sprinkle limestone
- 5.4.10 Leave the stall empty for several days (if possible).

Document Status and Revision History

DATE	PREVIOUS VERSION	NEW VERSION
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