

# COWS CREATE CAREERS

# HYGIENE & FACILITY CHECK



## Stay safe

Personal hygiene is essential when working with animals. Avoid eating and drinking while you are working with the calves.

## Wash your hands

Make sure you are careful to wash your hands before and after you have been in contact with the calves:

- Rinse your hands with running water.
- Apply soap and lather vigorously.
- Dry hands thoroughly with a paper towel or air dry.

You shouldn't 'kiss' the calves – keep personal hygiene in mind.

## Facilities

### Keep your calves safe

What do they need? What sort of facilities do your calves require to keep safe, warm and healthy? Use these learnings as part of your research.

## Vet services

### Approval of veterinary expenses

Vet expenses must be authorised by calling the Project Managers: 0419 878 055 (Deanne) or 0412 368 739 (John).

## Facilities for calf rearing

- Fenced, secure area (calves don't need access to a paddock).
- Protected area that is warm and dry (covered).
- Access to clean water.
- Storage area for supplies.
- Separate facilities – removed from any other farm animals.
- Clean of rubbish (remember the calves will chew anything).

## PLEASE ASK YOUR FARMER TO WRITE DOWN THE FEEDING RATIONS FOR THE CALVES

Milk powder formula \_\_\_\_\_

Water requirements \_\_\_\_\_

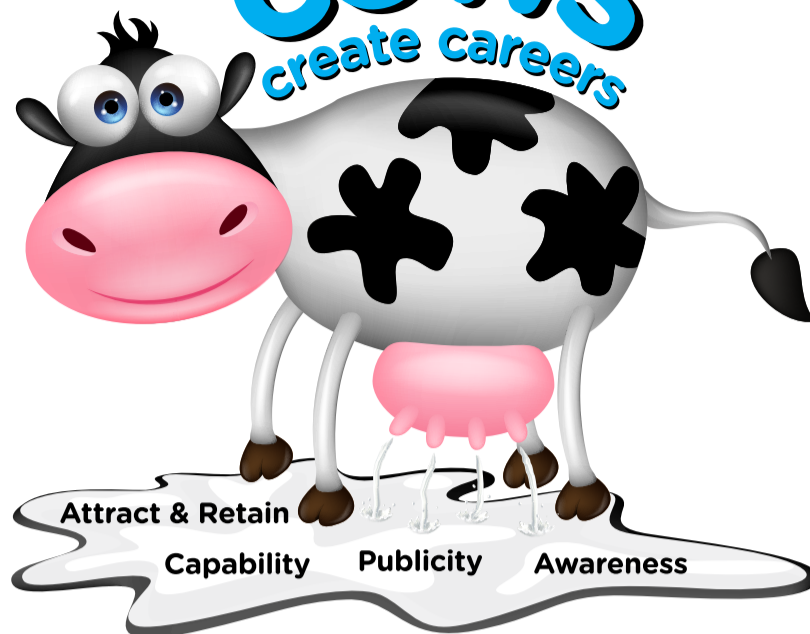
Calf meal ration \_\_\_\_\_

Farmer contact number \_\_\_\_\_

**It is important to keep the calves in a similar environment with the same feeding regime that they have had at home.**



**COWS**  
create careers



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## HEALTH CHECK

### What's normal?

#### Eyes

- Bright, alert
- Not sunken

#### Breathing

- 50 breaths per minute for 14-day-old calves
- 37 breaths per minute for 35-day-old calves
- Calm, rhythmic breathing, not laboured
- No rattles, gurgles or raspy sounds

#### Ears

- Perky
- Not droopy

#### Muzzle

- Warm (not hot) and wet to touch

#### Coat

- Clean and shiny
- Quickly returns to a flat position when you pinch a bit of skin near the ribs and twist it 90 degrees

#### Navel

- Dry
- No signs of swelling

#### Holstein/Jersey growth rates

- 0.1-0.2 kg/day at 1-2 weeks
- 0.5-0.7 kg/day at 3-5 weeks

#### Behaviour

- Running around the pen
- Bellowing, particularly close to feed times
- Strong suck, aggressive feeder
- Sucking items in its environment
- Resting in a curled position with feet tucked under and heads back along the body, often about an hour after feed time
- Gets up immediately with prodding
- Calves that are ill will be slow to rise

#### Manure

- Soft but formed
- Colour will vary with diet from milky to brown
- Free from blood
- Not watery or very loose
- Not hard
- No straining when manure is passed

### EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

The order of contact for schools in case of animal husbandry questions are:

1. Farmer
2. Project Managers
3. Veterinary Surgeon

**If you have any questions or concerns about your calves please give your farmer a call.**

