

# NEW CALF

## Information and Care

People who purchase a calf need a record of the animal and an account of its history. This form and the information on the reverse side seek to answer common questions and help new owners properly feed, house and care for calves.



Photo: Jenifer Cruickshank, © Oregon State University

### INFORMATION FOR SELLER TO COMPLETE

<b>Seller's name and location</b>		<b>Breed</b>	
<b>Birth date</b>	<b>Tag # or ID</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Bull <input type="checkbox"/> Heifer <input type="checkbox"/> Difficult birth	<b>#</b> Number of quarts colostrum calf received in first 24 hours
<input type="checkbox"/> Calf's navel was dipped or sprayed with disinfectant <input type="checkbox"/> Calf has been disbudded <input type="checkbox"/> Calf is polled		<input type="checkbox"/> Calf has been banded or otherwise castrated	
<b>Treatment(s) and dates received</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> No treatments		<b>Vaccine(s) and date received</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> No vaccines	

### BUYER'S INFORMATION

<b>Authorized agent, if applicable</b>	
<b>New owner</b>	<b>Signature</b>
<b>Calf destination</b>	<b>Date</b>

When complete, this form serves as an Oregon Transportation Certificate. No brand inspection is required for calves under 30 days of age.

# NEW CALF CARE

## Feeding

- Milk or milk replacer at 101–105 degrees F. (Use thermometer to check.)
- 2–4 quarts milk (1–1.5 lbs dry replacer) two times a day (20% of body weight daily).
- Milk replacer: Follow mixing instructions; 20%–22% protein (milk source), 15%–25% fat (higher in winter).
- Check nipple condition. (Should just drip when bottle is inverted; do not enlarge nipple opening.)
- Free choice high-quality calf starter (coarse texture, more than 50% grain, 18% protein, less than 9% molasses, less than 4% fat), starting at a few days old.
- Chopped hay starting at 5–7 weeks (preweaning).
- Clean water available at all times.
- Sanitation of bottles, buckets and feeders is critical.

## Housing

- Clean, dry bedding; deeper in cold weather. (Straw is ideal.)
- If air temperature is outside of comfort range (50–75 degrees F), provide calf jacket, fans, etc., as appropriate.
- Good ventilation (fresh air) but no drafts.
- Monitor ammonia odor at calf level; if noticeable, change bedding and improve ventilation.
- Control flies.

## Disbudding and castration

- Do both as early as possible.
- Provide pain relief such as meloxicam; discuss with veterinarian.
- Disbudding: burning or caustic paste. (Learn from veterinarian or someone experienced.)
- Castration: rubber ring banding or surgical removal.

## Health care

If calf has diarrhea and is standing or appears strong and is drinking all milk: give an oral electrolyte solution containing sodium bicarbonate between regular milk feedings. Do not combine electrolytes with milk.

### When to contact a veterinarian:

- Calf has diarrhea, is not drinking milk or is dehydrated, depressed or unable to stand.
- Calf has temperature over 104 degrees F.
- Calf has snotty nose, drooping ears, elevated respiratory rate, bloat or other signs of illness.

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Published January 2020