

Housing and calf pneumonia

Ventilation & air pollutants

- Ventilation is vital for pathogen and noxious gas removal

Major calf house air pollutants:

- Ammonia – To reduce: avoid build up of soiled bedding
- Dust – To reduce: avoid straw blowers or dusty feeds

Temperature and relative humidity

- Temperature
 - Bedding and protection from draughts reduces thermal strain on the calf
- Humidity
 - Dampness increases thermal strain

Draughts

- Airspeed greater than 0.5-0.8 m/s at calf level should be avoided, e.g. open doors and wind-exposed calf houses

Bedding

- Deep dry straw bed best for calf

Well bedded calf - can't see legs/feet above bedding



Take home messages

- Avoid build-up of air pollutants
- Provide generous bedding and protection from draughts