

Calf Rearing: Health

Pathogens

- Caused by both **viruses** and **bacteria**
- **Viruses:** BRSV, PI-3, BCoV, BoHV-1
- **Bacteria:** *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Mycoplasma bovis*

Sourcing calves

- Good colostrum management on source farm
- Look for healthy calves, no scour or joint ill
- Low number of source farms = less risk of introducing pathogens
- Reduce travel time where possible

Vaccination

- Intranasal and injectable vaccines are available for respiratory disease pathogens, however not all pathogens are covered
- **Intranasal** vaccines provide **faster** onset of immunity - useful for calves arriving onto farms
- **Injectable** vaccines provide **longer** duration of immunity and protection against certain bacterial pathogens

Detection

- Coughing, nasal discharge, fast/laboured breathing - take rectal temperature. **If ≥ 39.5 °C consult vet**

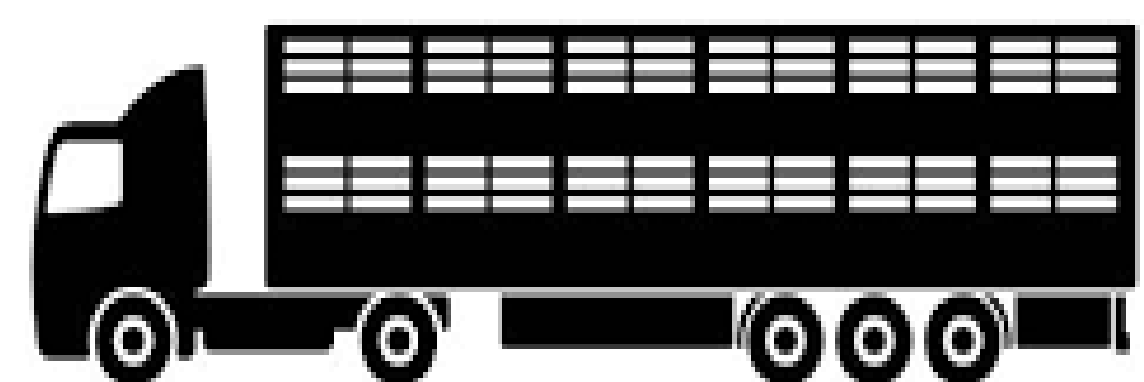
Take home messages

- Sourcing healthy calves is crucial for success
- Vaccines are useful but do not guarantee protection
- Monitor for disease and act quickly



and Management

Feeding management



- 2 L electrolytes immediately upon arrival
- 1 L milk/calf at feeding time on arrival day (approx. 3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Table 1. Milk feeding plan from arrival to weaning

Day	Water Volume	Feeding Rate	Litre/day
26	6 L (2 feeds)	3 L AM	6 L
		3 L PM	
27	5.5 L (2 feeds)	3.5 L AM	5.5 L
		2 L PM	
28	5 L (2 feeds)	4 L AM	5.5 L
		1.5 L PM	
29	5 L (2 feeds)	4 L AM	5 L
		1 L PM	
30	4 L (1 feed AM)	4 L AM	4 L
		0 L PM	

Weaning

- Minimum 8-weeks old
- Eating >1.0 kg conc & weigh 85 – 90kg
- Gradual weaning: ↓ post-wean check
- Hi conc intake → promote rumen development
- Turnout once weather is suitable
- 1 kg conc/day (16% CP) for ~ 1 mth

Key points

- **Vaccines prior to moving**
- **Electrolytes on arrival**
- **Milk replacer twice-a-day to 4-weeks**
- **Gradual transition to OAD by 30**
- **Gradual weaning >8-weeks**