

REDUCING EXPOSURE TO PATHOGENS

An On-Farm Checklist

Has your farm recently evaluated measures to reduce pathogen exposure? Use this checklist to be certain you have not overlooked an area that could be improved.

1. Selecting measures for newborn calves

- Collecting and feeding clean colostrum
- Dipping navels
- Keeping calves away from adult cow manure
- Keeping calves away from airborne pathogens, especially those from cows
- Goal: During the first day of life, minimize exposure to parasite oocysts, viruses and bacteria; especially exposure to coliform bacteria. Muck to mouth exposure is the most dangerous.

2. Selecting measures for preweaned calves

- Feeding clean milk replacer or milk
- Keeping adult cow manure away from calves including:
 - *Calf rearing staff
 - *Other farm employees
 - *Vets
 - *Consultants
 - *Suppliers
 - *Equipment such as skidsteer loaders, tractors, manure spreaders
- Keeping calves away from calf manure including:
 - *Clean pens or hutches

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- *Clean bedding
- *Avoid standing water

- Keeping sick calves away from healthy ones
- Keeping calves from breathing contaminated air
- Goal: During the preweaned period, minimize pathogen exposure. Especially dangerous are low level pathogen sources that continually drain protein and energy resources away from growth.

3. Selecting biosecurity measures for calf rearers (zoonotic disease prevention)

- Cryptosporidia
- Salmonella
- Ringworm

For an expanded outline of methods go to www.calfacts.com, select the “Metric” version at top of page and then scroll down to this title: Managing Calf Diseases: HACCP Application. For other management checklists, at the same web site enter the word checklist in the search box for a full listing.