TRANSITION CALF HOUSING CHECKLIST

1. **Does the housing provide enough space for the animals to walk around and lie down?**

   If heifers are disturbed frequently while lying down their stress level goes up. This stress is a precondition for illness and poor feed conversion efficiency.

2. **Does the housing provide a way to identify calves in the post weaning period that are adapting poorly to group life or are sick?**

   One way to accomplish this goal is to limit the number of calves per pen to six or eight. Another method is to assign a person to check calves individually each day in post weaning pens.

3. **Does the housing provide for plenty of fresh air?**

   Well-ventilated housing reduces respiratory stress. This stress may be due to (a) excessive moisture levels, (b) exposure to ammonia fumes, and (c) aerosolized pathogens.

4. **Does the housing provide enough space at grain and roughage feeders?**

   More space means less variation in growth rates within pens. Or, if all the heifers in a pen have space to eat at the same time the variation in growth rates in that pen will decrease.

5. **Does the housing provide water that is easy to find and use?**

   Post-weaning heifers that have never experienced group housing need easy, visible and uncrowded access to water. If the facility has a history of contagious diseases individual waterers for each pen may reduce rates of sickness.

6. **Does the housing provide facilities where heifers can be handled for routine tasks with a minimum of stress (such as sorting, vaccinating, bedding)?**

RATE YOURSELF

	YES	NO
1. Housing provides at least 25 square feet of space per heifer to lie down.	____	____
2. No more than 8 heifers per pen or a person assigned to check every calf daily.	____	____
3. Relative humidity inside is close to that outside the housing and there is no ammonia odor inside the housing.	____	____
4. At feeding time there is enough feeding space for all heifers to eat at once.	____	____
5. Waterers are easy to access during all weather conditions.	____	____

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