

## Theme 6: Calving, Young Stock Management

# USE OF EQUIPMENT AROUND CALVING (Level 2)

Topic	Training & information Content
6.1	Selection of bulls, use of sexed semen, feeding management of dry cows
6.1.1	The calving process
6.1.2	Use of equipment around calving
6.1.3	Care of cow and calf after calving
6.1.4	Colostrum management
6.2	Milk (replacer) feeding schedule
6.3	From birth to weaning
6.4	Disease and health management
6.5	Handling of calves after difficult birth
6.6	Young stock rearing info and Key Performance Indicators



## 1. You will learn about (learning objectives):

- How to prepare a cow for a hygienic calving procedure
- How to use/implement all the necessities for a smooth hygienic calving process
- Hygienic measures before, during and after birth process



## 2. Background

- Calving is the most important and most sensitive moment in a cow's life every year
- (Too) many calves die because of a lack of prevention measures around birth
- Farms lose most cows (either die) because of calving issues, mostly because farmers make wrong or no decisions
- Many things can go wrong, which may effect calf's health and cow's health and performance. As such, putting more emphasis on hygiene and care will have a direct effect on calf and cow performance



### 3. Calving: Hygienic Calving pen

- Successful calving all starts with a good preparation
- This means;
  - When the cow is close to calving, it is important to separate the cow from the herd to allow parturition process to take place quietly and undisturbed
  - Take the cow to a spacious, clean calving shed that is well-filled with straw, with ample feeding and drinking facilities

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**IMPORTANT**



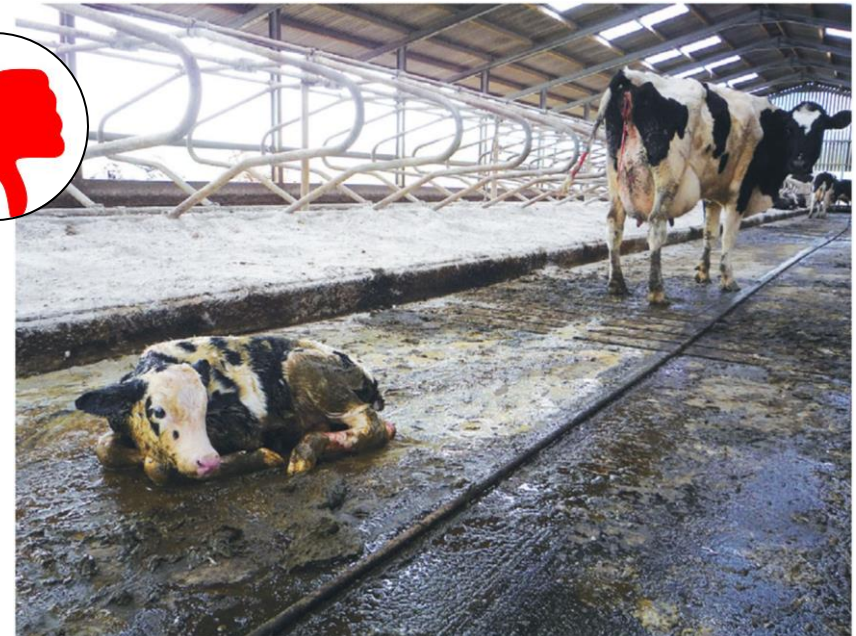
### 3.1 Calving: Hygienic Calving pen cont'd...

How it should be:

1



Unexpected:



## 4. Water and disinfectant soap

- As soon as the cow starts showing signs of calving, it is time to make sure that water and disinfectant soap is available



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## 4.1 Disinfecting the vulva area

- Washing and disinfecting areas around the cow's vulva, tail and rump is heavily recommended to protect "the sterile calf" and the cow's vulnerable birth canal from future infections



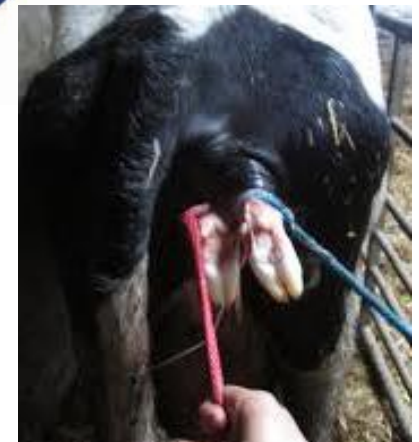
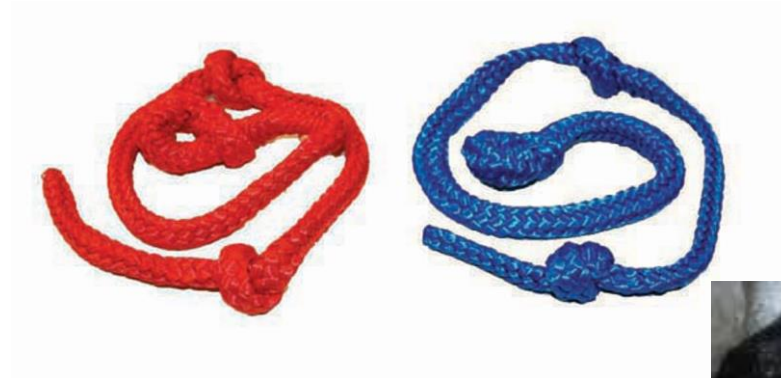
## 5. Special pulling chains/ropes

- Preferably dry, but for sure disinfected, special pulling chains or ropes must be around when the calving process has started



**Important:** Immediately wash and disinfect after use to be ready for the next calving

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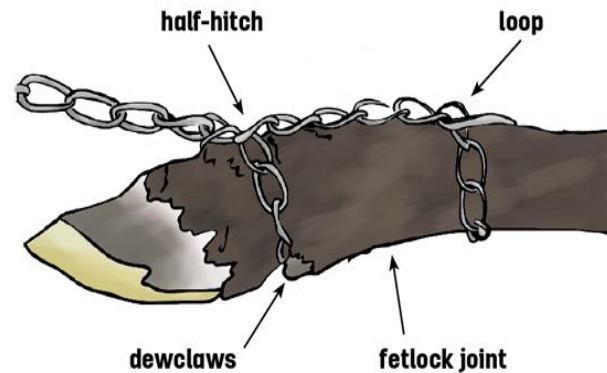


## 5.1 Special pulling chains/ropes cont'd...

- **Tip:** This is how to tie and pull the strings in case assistance is needed. Other ways of application/tying and pulling can lead to permanent damage to the calf



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## 6. Clean hands and nails

- Washing hands and cutting nails before you start rectal research is a must



## 7. Stimulating feed intake using amniotic fluids

- To stimulate feed intake immediately after calving, the amniotic fluids will help to increase the feed intake. This is in fact making use of the natural behavior of the cow

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## 8. First aid incase of weak respiration

- Clean cold water must be ready incase of weak respiration; cold water can act as a shock effect
- Straw is beneficial for nose tickling, causing the calf to cough
- Towels are used to dry the calf



*Nose tickling causes the calf to cough*

## 9. Umbilical/Navel cord disinfection

- Without any doubt, the most important part of a normal birthing process is to disinfect the umbilical cord as soon as the calf is born
- It is strongly advised to repeat this disinfection 2-3 times during the first 24 hours

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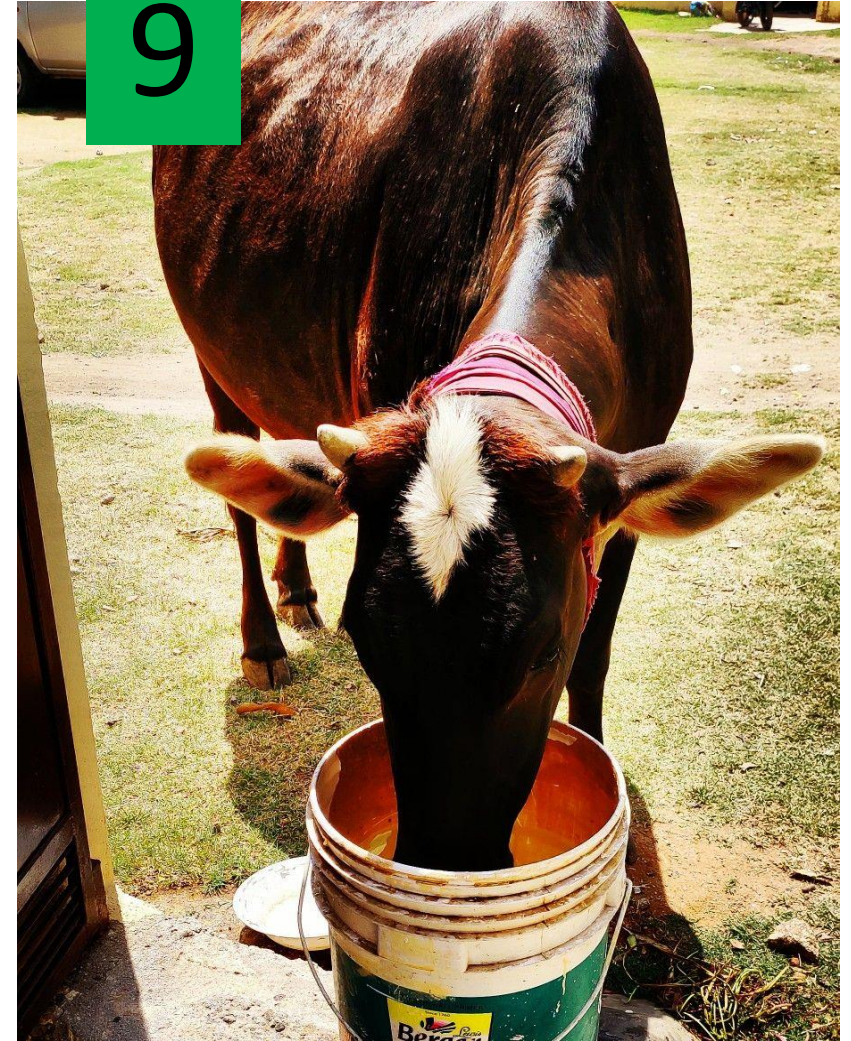
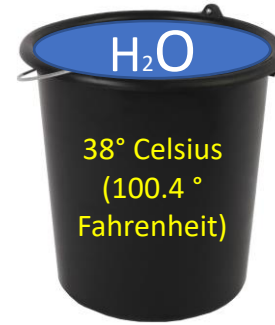
## 10. Preparations and demands for Milking and Feeding

- First milking is done to harvest colostrum for feeding the calf. A number of milking equipment are required, clean and disinfected



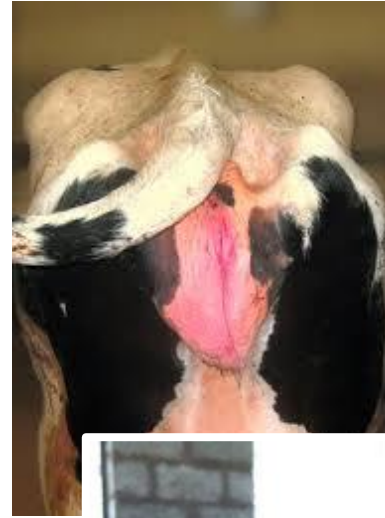
## 11. Disease prevention: Water and feed

- Offer the cow lukewarm water followed by high quality feed after she calves down



## 12. Cooling the cow's vulva (in case of dystocia/heavy parturition)

- Sometimes the cow's vulva becomes slightly (or sometimes severely) swollen after assisted calving. Cooling the cow's vulva by spraying cold water will help stop the swelling process and reduce pain



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