

As calving season is upon us the veterinary team at the Neepawa Veterinary Clinic would like to share some calving tips to ensure you have a successful and healthy calving season.

1. Handling Equipment

- a. Ensure that your maternity pen and/or chute are clean and in working order
- b. Have clean bedding available for pens in which cows calve
- c. If the chute is not undercover, ensure that it is clear of snow and ice so that when needed the facility is useable.

2. Ensure lighting available

- a. Check your flashlights and keep an extra one around
- b. Head lamps can be a useful means of keeping your hands free

3. Calving Assistance Equipment

- a. Calving chains, hooks, calf puller, metal pail, OB lube, gloves, and chlorhexidine/iodine solution are all part of a complete calving kit
- b. Ensure all equipment is clean and in working order
- c. Keep all equipment in a clean and dry location to avoid dust and rusting
- d. Clean equipment after each use of equipment with warm water and antibacterial soap
Allow to air dry.

4. Record keeping of calving

- a. Date, sex, positioning, assistance, type of assistance

5. Post calf procedures

- a. Plan for ear tags, tattoos, weight, and castration
- b. Keep associated supplies on hand

6. Maintain a valid Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR)

- a. Allows you and your veterinarian to design and tailor treatment plans to your operation and situation.

7. Ensure necessary treatments and supplies are on hand.

- a. Talk with your veterinarian with respect to specific treatments
- b. Colostrum, electrolytes
- c. Esophageal feeder – one for healthy animals and one for sick animals
- d. Thermometer

8. Plan for severe weather conditions

- a. Plan for correcting calf hypothermia
- b. Calf shelters in good repair and sufficient bedding on hand

9. List of potential culls based on:

- a. Poor udder condition
- b. Bad disposition
- c. Tough calving/c-section
- d. Vaginal Prolapse
- e. Old age
- f. Poor feet and legs

We wish you all the best this season. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call and speak to our veterinarians, Dr. Liz and Dr. Rhian. During regular hours we can be reached at 204-476-2222. Emergency service can be reached at 204-841-0755.