



## PRE-CALVING CHECKLIST

*The following is a list of things that may be useful for you to check off, from when the last calf leaves the shed right up until your next calving season...*



### Housing

- Bedding cleaned out when the last calf leaves the shed
- Partitions and walls scrubbed
- Partitions, walls and floors disinfected
- New bedding +/- shade mesh +/- scoria ordered
- Any changes needed to improve ventilation made NOW
- Can isolation pens be improved?

### Records

- Record morbidity and mortality rates permanently on computer
- Compare to targets – how did you do?
- Improve disease recording if needed (eg buy a new white board, new markers)

### Dry off and vaccination

- Plan appropriate vaccine/s schedule (eg which vaccines; 2 shot initial course or annual booster?)
- Compile accurate list of cow due dates
- Vaccinate cows at appropriate times (see product instructions)
- If cows were leaking milk at previous calving, consider teat sealing/assess technique

### Assisted calvings

- Chains, head snare
- Pulley/calving jack in working order
- Obstetrical lubricant
- Calf resuscitator/towels for drying and stimulating calves

### Colostrum management & newborn care

- 7% iodine for spraying navels
- New colostrum storage equipment (eg Perfect Udder, juice/milk bottles)
- New colostrum feeding equipment (eg Perfect udder bags/tube feeders)
- Brix refractometer for assessing colostrum quality –recalibrated
- Potassium sorbate for preserving colostrum
- New fridge? New freezer?
- New jugs for pouring colostrum into feeders

### Treatment of sick calves

- Review of treatment protocols with staff
- Box of gloves, special boots & overalls in calf shed for treating sick calves
- Electrolytes bought
- Sick-calf only feeders (for milk & electrolytes)
- New calf blankets?
- 5 ml syringes and 18 gauge 1 inch needles

### Feeding

- Replace old and scratched feeders
- Replace teats
- If feeding milk replacer: scales and jugs for accurate measuring
- Order calf concentrate (pellets or meal) – ensure contain 18–20% crude protein & 33ppm of a coccidiostat