



Hall's Calf Ranch

*Raising the Best Quality
Replacement*



Overview

- Started in 1995
- Calves from 24 farms within a 50-mile radius
- 4,900 calves
- Holsteins, Jerseys, Brown Swiss, Ho-Jo's
- Cover 35 acres
- 28 full-time employees
- 5 part-time employees
- 3,000 hutches & 15 barns
- Second site – 1,600 heifers, 5 months to springers
- Death loss averages less than 2%



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Hall's ideal customer

- 50-4,000 cows
 - Willing to work with us
 - Open to change
 - Clean facilities
- Good communication is key...between vet, producer and grower



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Rates

- \$3.35/day (first 70 days)
Includes medicine, feed, tail docking, dehorning, vaccines, transportation, vet bills, etc.
- \$2.25/day (to 150 days)
- \$2.15/day (151 days to springing)



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Incoming protocols

- Picked up within 24 hours
- Must be fed a gallon of high quality colostrum or a reputable colostrum replacer
- Navels dipped with 7% iodine or Navel Guard
- Tagged and recorded
- Moved to clean, dry pen



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ITEM	TASKS
Calving area	Calve cows in clean, dry maternity pen Dip navel with 7% iodine Remove calf from maternity pen immediately, place calf in outdoor hutch Hutch should have fresh bedding daily, cleaned weekly, heat lamps in winter
Colostrum collection	Clean udder and teats thoroughly Milk ASAP after calving - within 1 hour Collect colostrum into clean bucket, feed or refrigerate immediately
Colostrum quality	Johnes negative cow Don't pool colostrum, 1 donor to a calf If the cow produces more than 2 gallons, colostrum will be of lesser quality If using a colostrometer, colostrum should be tested warm, not cold
Colostrum storage	Refrigerate in clean 1 or 2 qt containers, label with colostrometer reading and date Should be frozen if will not be used within 4 days, but fresh is better than frozen
Colostrum feeding	Feed within 1 hour of birth Feed 4 qts, use esophageal feeder if necessary Colostrum should be fed at 100 - 105 degrees If thawing colostrum, use warm water bath less than 145 degrees (no microwaves)
Calf management	Eartag and record information

Transportation to farm

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Upon arrival

- Navels dipped again with Navel Guard
- Weighed
- Tail banded
- Put into hutches



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Day 2

- Blood pulled for serum IgG's
- BVD tested
- Inforce 3 given



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Equipment room



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Pasteurizer

- 2,000 gallons of milk per day
- Waste milk is collected from 9 different dairies
- Use a "flash" pasteurizer at 14 gallons per minute



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Pail washer



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Other equipment

- 4 special feeding and watering carts with 300-gallon tanks



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Feeding milk

- Calves are fed 2 quarts pasteurized milk twice a day until 5-6 weeks of age
- Calves are fed via bottle upon arrival
- After 2-3 feedings, calves are pail trained



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Feeding milk



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Feeding starter grain

- Calves are offered starter at day 3
- Starter intakes are monitored through transition



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Feeding starter grain

- Starter is purchased in bulk and stored in raised bins



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Feeding water

- Free choice water is offered to calves twice daily starting at day 3
- Water must be clean and free of debris



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Collecting water

- Water is collected twice daily and dumped away from the hutches



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Bedding

- Calves are bedded as needed
- Clean, dry resting area is very important for calf health and performance
- Straw is used year-round



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Vaccination protocols

- Inforce 3 only given at day 2
- Dehorned at 3 weeks
- Weaned at 6 weeks
- Bovi-Shield 5L5 given at 8 weeks & 3 days later
- Grouped at 8 weeks
- Bovi -Shield 5L5, Alpha 7MB given at 4 months



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Calf health

- All calves are looked at twice daily and monitored for health challenges
- Full assessment done when calves show any of the following symptoms:
 - Puffy navel
 - Lethargic
 - Not eating
 - Droopy ears
 - Runny eyes
 - Snotty nose
 - Diarrhea



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Calf health

- Treatments and designated calves are marked with different colored tags on calf panels



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Weaning

- Calves are weaned at approximately 6 weeks
- Calves must be eating 2-3 lb of starter for at least three days before weaning
- Calves remain in hutches until 7-8 weeks before moving to group pens (calves still receive water and grain twice daily)



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Transition - grouping

- Calves are moved at 7-8 weeks in groups of 10
- Two different styles of barns are used for transition



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Barns



Used for both pre-weaning and transition calves



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Barns



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Feeding transition calves

- For the first week, calves are fed starter grain
- In week 2, calves are transitioned to total mixed ration (TMR) consisting of dry hay, corn silage, starter grain and haylage



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Waste handling

- Concrete pad for stacking and composting
- Slurry storage system for all waste water
- 6 month of manure storage on farm
- Spread spring and fall



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Summer management

- Fly control
- Heat abatement
- Bunk management



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Winter management

- Snow removal
- Cold stress
- Watering in winter
- Employee morale



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Keys to success

- It's not magic...
 - Basic good nutrition
 - Consistency
 - Attention to details
 - Clean, clean, clean!
- Employees...
 - Treat with respect
 - Fun place to work
 - Eat lunch together
 - More than a job
 - Communicate, communicate, communicate!



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Thank you!