CalfTrack™

Calf Management Training System

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College of Agricultural Sciences

CalfTrack™

Calf Management Training System

- What is CalfTrack?
  - Standard operating procedures for calf care tasks
  - Health scoring system

CHORE PLANS

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Calf Management Training System

Developed under the leadership of Dr. Jud Heinrichs of the Dairy and Animal Science Department at Penn State.

CHORE PLANS

Why was CalfTrack developed?

- Because calves are an important aspect of every dairy farm
- Because calf care is often a task of employees of the farm
- Because calf care tasks are varied and quite numerous
- Because consistent and proper techniques are required for optimal calf health and growth

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WHY is it important to do the **best way** every time?

- Actions in the first hours of life directly affect the calf's chance of survival
- Leaving out or delaying actions increases the chance of sick or dead calves
- Dead calves don't make you any money
- Sick calves cost a lot of money and time

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People Make It Happen!

But first they need…

1. Equipment and workplace to get the job done right
2. A clear system of procedures and performance expectations
3. Training
4. Feedback on performance

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Equipment and Workplace

- Right equipment and supplies for the job
- Place to clean, maintain, and store equipment
- Workplace that encourages good performance, not one that discourages

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Procedures and Expectations

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
  - How do I do this job?
  - When do I do this job?
  - Why do I do this job?

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Procedures and Expectations

- Performance Expectations
  - What does it look like when I do a good job?
  - What must I make sure is done right every time?
  - How do we measure actions and results, and what should those measurements be?
  - What are our performance goals?

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Training

- People won't know exactly how, when, and why unless you train them
- Use Tell, Show, Do, Review to train and adjust for learning differences
- Re-train everyone every time you want to make a change

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Feedback on Performance

- Reinforce the importance of caring for baby calves
- Measure performance: death loss, health scores, rate of gain, IgG concentration, etc.
- Recognize and encourage positive actions and results
- Use coaching to correct negative actions and problem solving to correct poor results

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CHORE PLANS

Calf Track™
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- Specific calf tasks
- Clearly defines skills, equipment, and time requirements
- Describes why task is important
- Details how to do it in a step by step manner

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CALF HEALTH SCORING SYSTEM

Calf Track™
Calf Management Training System

- Includes calf information, feeding information, notes, treatments, and daily health information
- Allows for consistent health evaluation

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