Suggested Calf and Heifer Housing Space Requirements Jersey[1]

Group #	Name	Typical or Estimated Age	Typical or Estimated Weight	Maximum Animals per Group	Maximum Age Spread in Group	Maximum Weight Variation in Group	Width of Minimum Space for Animal to Eat[2]	Minimum Bedded Pen or Pack Area per Animal (Excludes feeding area)[3]	Suggested Freestall Size length/width
1	baby calf	0-2 months	birth weight-125 lbs.	1				30 sq. ft.	Do Not Use
2	weaned calf	2-4 months	125-200 lbs.	7	1 month		18 in. with slant bar dividers	30 sq. ft.	Do Not Use
3	heifer	4-8 months	200-400 lbs.	based on management ability and calving rate	4 months	200 pounds	15 in.	40 sq. ft.	Do Not Use
4	heifer	8-12 months	400-500 lbs.				15 in.	40 sq. ft.	Do Not Use
5	heifer	12-16 months	500-700 lbs.				17 in.	50 sq. ft.	69"x36"
6	heifer	16-20 months	700-800 lbs.				19 in.	60 sq. ft.	84"x40"
7	heifer	20 months to 1 month pre-calving	800-900 lbs.				19 in.	60 sq. ft.	84"x40"
8	pre-fresh heifer	pre-calving (2-4 weeks)					28 in.	100 sq. ft.	96"x43"

1. This table summarizes a variety of design information or suggestions useful when planning calf and heifer housing systems for Jersey dairy cattle. Due to variations in management goals, herd size and calvings this information represents a starting point in the design process. You may not be able to meet all suggestions in any particular design. When organizing groups consider feeding requirements, management needs and especially size and age variation among animals in the same group. As a general rule of thumb smaller group sizes increase ease of observing and identifying animals that require special attention. Groups of animals over 6 months of age may be organized differently based on variations in herd size and calving frequency.

- Table items in bold represent critical design or management recommendations.
- To reduce the likelihood of injury and poor growth pay particular attention to the variation of size of animals in any group.
- Provide continuously available fresh, clean frost free water to all animals.
- Provide access to a convenient means for restraining all animals either in their pen or in adjacent working facility.
- Feed barriers with gangs of self closing stanchions are often used for heifer restraint and feeding. Experience has shown that young animals have difficulty learning to maneuver in and out of these devices. For this reason self closing stanchions are not recommended for newly weaned and grouped animals. Close observation and procedures for acclimating animals to these devices are recommended.

2. These numbers represent the space occupied along a feed barrier by an animal while eating. Whether all animals can access feed at the same time is controlled by the total length of feed barrier available to the group and the number of animals. Floor plans that do not allow all animals in a pen to eat at the same time require appropriate feeding management. Once animals are accustomed to group living and eating the number of animals that are allowed to eat at the same time should be determined by feeding and management decisions. See DIP 831 *Fenceline Feed Barriers* (page 251) and DIP 832 *Individual Feeding Fronts for Baby Calves* (page 256) for recommended types, sizes and construction of feed barriers for calves and heifers.

3. Animal cleanliness and pack maintenance frequency and labor are directly related to space provided per animal.

Source: 2008. Graves, R. E., J. T. Tyson, D. F. McFarland, T. H. Wilson. Penn State Housing Plans for Calves and Heifers, NRAES-201. Page 279.