



## Calving Season Tips

### **Handling Equipment:**

- Have clean bedding available for pens in which cows calve
- Ensure your maternity pen and/or calving chute are clean and in working order
- If your chute is not under cover, ensure that it is clear of snow and ice.

### **Lighting:**

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

### **Calving Assistance Equipment:**

- Calving chains, hooks, calf puller, metal pail, OB lubricant, and gloves are all part of a complete calving kit
- Ensure all equipment is clean and in working order
- Keep all equipment in a clean/dry location to avoid rusting and seizing
- Clean equipment after each use with warm water, antibacterial soap and allow to air dry

### **Record Keeping:**

- Keep a record of date of birth, sex, weight, birth positioning, if any assistance was needed, and the type of assistance used

### **Post Calving Procedures:**

- Have a plan for calf identification such as ear tags and/or tattoos
- Castration and dehorning

### **Maintain a Valid and Current Vet-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) :**

- Discuss treatment plans for
  - o Vaccination protocols
  - o Sick animals
  - o Difficult calving's

### **Treatments and Supplies:**

- Medication
- Vaccinations
- Colostrum and electrolytes
- Esophageal feeder – one for healthy and one for sick animals
- Thermometer

### **Plan for Severe Weather Conditions:**

- Calf hypothermia corrections
- After storm calf scours and pneumonia treatment
- Make sure calf shelters are in good repair and have sufficient bedding

### **List of Potential Reasons to Cull:**

- Poor udder condition
- Bad disposition
- Tough calving/c-section
- Vaginal prolapse (hereditary)
- Old age
- Poor feet and legs