

# Flat Aggie Adventures

# Calving

Edition 3



## DID YOU KNOW?



**Colostrum:** First milk released after birth that is full of protein and rich in antibodies.



**Calf hut:** A home for a calf.



**Ear tags:** Used for identification of an animal.



**Polled:** Genetically born without horns.



**Bottles:** Used to feed calves just as a bottle is used to feed a baby.



**Wean:** To accustom cattle to food other than its mother's milk.

## CARE BEFORE CALF

Dairy cows are mammals, which means they provide milk to their young and give birth to live babies. Each mammal has a different gestation period. Dairy cows are pregnant for nine months.

Flat Aggie is checking the cows that are on "vacation". These cows have been milked for the last 250-340 days and are now called dry cows meaning they no longer produce milk. These cows will be on "vacation" for 45-60 days before they give birth to a calf. Once the cow gives birth she is called a fresh cow for 4 weeks. This is the window when the cow begins to produce milk once again.





# CARE AFTER CALF

Bovikalc is provided to a dairy cow immediately following the birth of a calf. Bovikalc is a calcium pill that helps prevent cows from getting extremely ill. Milk fever occurs when a cow is lacking in calcium. The cow also receives an immunity shot, this is the shot also given before birth.

Flat Aggie learns that there is a difference between cows and heifers. The cows have given birth before and heifers are a young female that have not yet given birth. When a heifer has given birth to her first calf she is provided a collar to wear around her neck. This collar is used to track many things from movement, information about milking and so much more.



# CALF CARE

Flat Aggie is preparing a bottle for a new born calf. When a calf is first born, it will be given up to a gallon of milk. It is important that the calf receives colostrum during the first hours of life. Colostrum is the first milking provided by the cow and is full of protein and rich in antibodies. Flat Aggie also inserts a tag into the calf's ear to provide identification and gives the calf necessary vaccines to help keep them healthy.



# FUN DAIRY FACTS

- A dairy calf drinks milk for six weeks.
- Cows/heifers are pregnant for 274 days.
- Newborn calves can weigh up to 80 pounds.
- Cows/heifers usually have one calf but can occasionally have twins.
- After a heifer has a calf she is then called a cow.



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# JOKE OF THE DAY

What did one dairy cow say to another?

GOT MILK?



Buchanan, Delaware and Linn County