

# Simple, Warm Season Only, Outdoor, Ad-lib, Preserved Milk System at: Hanno Farms, Lowville, NY



<b>Facility</b>	3 Super Hutches in dry lot with covered nipple bar and grain/water feeding area. Calves occupy system from early May to late October – about 5 months.
<b>Colostrum Management</b>	Check solids content for quality . Feed 4 quarts ASAP
<b>Age at Introduction</b>	All calves are treated for cryptosporidium in maternity barn before introduction to the ad-lib group system. Calves are introduced at 10 days on average. Calves are “grafted” from bottle teat end to the peach teat. Since they are older, few if any problems getting them onto system.
<b>Feeding System Components</b>	Plastic trash barrels with heavy duty plastic bag as disposable liner. Tubes with check valves, peach teat nipples affixed to a board. Very simple and inexpensive “milk bar” with 6 nipples for 15 calves.
<b>Liquid Feed</b>	Waste milk is combined with cooled bulk tank milk (for both volume needs and to arrive at proper acidification temperature of 72 <sup>o</sup> F). The desired pH of 4.2 is determined with narrow range pH paper. Actual feeding temperature is weather dependent in an outdoor system.. No problems with curdling in warmer weather.
<b>Mixing/ Cleaning</b>	Milk is mixed (acidified) twice daily. Liner bag is changed daily. Hoses and nipples are cleaned daily. Nipples often last the full season.
<b>Pen Moves/ Weaning</b>	Individual pen fed 2x in barn until moving to group system. Ad-lib, group fed outside days 10 – 40. Weaning is incremental step down back in individual pen in barn from day 40 – 60.



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**Resting Area Space**

Inside space in super hutch is approximately 6.83' x 8.5'. Three hutches housing 15 calves gives over 10 ft.<sup>2</sup> per calf.

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**Bedding**

Due to generous square footage of super hutches, straw with no base layer is used. Bedding is changed based on need. More frequent in a wet summer and less frequent in a summer like 2012.

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**Treatments**

Treatment for scours is almost non-existent. Respiratory treatments are transitory with weather and involves the youngest calves in the system. May and June little or no treatment. Hotter days in July and August, some respiratory bouts due to prolonged time on pack (staying out of the sun). Late August and September, back to few if any treatments. October transition weather (cool, wet) leads to some bouts of treatment. Mycotil and Draxxin used.

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**Vaccinations (Cow & Calf)**

Cows: at dry off – Scourguard and J-Vac Pre-Fresh – J-Vac  
Calves: Scourguard and J-Vac

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**Changes to Make?**

May try a group pen with warm box feeder this winter when pen space becomes available.

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**Recommend**

Don't consider ad-lib group system as either low maintenance or low management input. While there may be labor savings, things absolutely need to be done right, day after day.

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