

Hutch Start on Milk Replacer to
Group Robot Pasteurized Milk System at:



Hildene Farms
Pavilion, NY



Facility

Retrofitted 120' X 45' barn with arched ceiling and insulation under trusses
4 group pens w/ panel dividers between and central feeding room
Milk house for pasteurizer, bulk tank, bucket cleaning and milk replacer mixing

Colostrum Management

1 gallon offered in bottle, tubed after 1-2 tries, done ASAP at least <4 hours post calving.
Fresh colostrum if late morning thru afternoon; frozen, warm water thawed colostrum evening thru early morning. No testing done.

Age at Introduction

All calves are started in hutches before introduction to the robotic group system at 10 days of age on average. Calves are "grafted" from nipple buckets to the robot peach teat. Usually only needs 1-2 days of supervision. Since they are older, few if any problems getting them onto system..

Feeding System Components

Nipple buckets, fed 2X daily for 1st 10 days while in hutches
2 Forster Technik GEA robotic units, 4 nipples, 4 pens, 25 to group max goal
200 gallon bulk tank to chill and hold pasteurized milk

Liquid Feed

Hutch calves fed 2 qts of 25:20 milk replacer with lasalocid (Bovatec) 2X daily .
Group calves fed a combination of pasteurized waste milk (50-75%), fresh cow and saleable tank milk. Held at 38 °F in bulk tank. Fed at 1.5 gal(6 liters)/day ages 10-20 days, 2.5 gal (9.5 liters)/day ages 20-55 days at 102 °F.

Pasteurizing/ Cleaning

Run 125 gallon Dari-Tech batch pasteurizer 1-2X daily.
Bulk tank cleaned (CIP) 2X weekly with milk lines to robots.
Auto feeders clean automatically throughout the day. Nipples cleaned 2X weekly.
Nipples changed at least once during group stay.
Clorox water rinse of auto feeder area at least 2X daily.

Hildene Farms, continued...



Pen Moves/ Weaning

Hutches to group pen at 10 days of age; weaning starts at 55 days of age complete in 10 days; gradual step down in milk volume; moved to next housing at 80 days of age.

Resting Area Space

At 25 calves /pen = 38 sq/ft/calf
At 30 calves /pen = 31.7 sq/ft/calf

Bedding

Straw over bulk sawdust over concrete
Until Sept. 2012 cleaned ~ every other week
Attempting built up pack now

Treatments

Scours: 5% rate mostly under 10 days of age, electrolytes first, then Polyflex &/or SMZ pills if needed
Respiratory: Since Sept '12 about 10% treatment rate (higher previously)
Usually cases average 4 weeks old
Variety of antibiotic treatment previously used

Vaccinations (Cow & Calf)

Dry cows: Scourguard 4KC and Endovac Bovi
Calves: Inforce 3 as newborns, Vista 5 L5 SQ with post-weaning move

Changes to Make?

Changes just completed in September driven by unsatisfactory respiratory health.

Recommend

All in, all out
Look around a many operations before deciding your approach