



NYSCHAP Transition Cow Questionnaire

Facilities

Pen moves	Number for this farm	Target	
Dry period		2*	
Fresh period		1	
Are cows moved in groups (preferred) or individually? <i>The exception to group moves would be moving a cow/heifer when actively calving.</i>		Groups	Individually

*Two moves during the dry period would ideally entail a move from the far-off dry cow area to the close-up dry cow area and a move from the close-up area to the individual pen for active calving (feet out)

Segregation of age groups	Yes	No
Are heifer grouped separately from cows during the close-up dry period? <i>Preferred if there are adequate facilities for both groups.</i>		
Are heifers grouped separately from cows during the fresh period? <i>Preferred if there are adequate facilities for both groups.</i>		

Far off dry cows needs	Number for this farm	Minimum	Ideal
Bunk space		18"	24"
Stalls stocking rate		100%	100%
Space/cow on a pack		80 - 90 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.

Close up dry cows needs	Number for this farm	Minimum	Ideal
Bunk space		24"	30"
Stalls stocking rate		100%	80%
Space/cow on a pack		80 sq. ft.	100 sq. ft.

Environment	Yes	No
Is ventilation adequate to control moisture, stale air and flies?		
Is adequate heat abatement in place using fans and soakers over feed bunks?		
Are stalls/packs for dry cows and fresh cows well bedded to provide comfortable areas that allow cows to rest as much as possible? <i>70% of cows should be lying down at all times except when having just been fed</i>		
Is bedding managed so that dry cows and fresh cows are dry and free of manure?		
Are there non-slip floors in dry cow and fresh pens?		

Nutrition

Basic Considerations	Yes	No
Are rations balanced in consultation with a nutritionist and/or veterinarian to ensure all nutrient requirements are met?		
Is the balanced ration being fed?		
Do cows have a body condition score of 3 - 3.5 at dry-off?		
Do heifers have a body condition score of 3 – 3.5 prior to calving?		

Far off dry cows – dry off to 3 weeks prepartum	Yes	No
Are cows fed a high-forage, low-energy diet – 0.57 to 0.61 Mcal NEL per pound of dry matter?		
To reduce energy intake, is approximately 20-30% chopped straw or hay added to the diet?		
Is the diet fed as a TMR to ensure adequate protein, minerals?		

Close up dry cows – 3 weeks prepartum to calving	Yes	No
Is feed available 24 hours/day? Consider how often feed is pushed up.		
Is ration balanced to provide 27-28 lbs DMI per cow per day containing approximately 0.68Mcal NEL per pound?		
Does ration provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ≤1.3% potassium ii. 0.9-1.0% calcium iii. 0.40-0.42% magnesium iv. 0.30-0.35% phosphorus 		
If DMI is over 30 lb per cow per day and the herd is experiencing issues with DAs and ketosis post calving, do you supplement the feed with several pounds of lower energy forage that is bulky and has low potassium content (<1.5%)?		

If using one dry cow ration	Yes	No
Does the diet provide 0.65 – 0.66 Mcal NEL/lb?		
Does the diet provide 28 lbs DMI?		
Does the diet provide the following minerals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. ≤1.3% potassium ii. 0.9-1.0% calcium iii. 0.40-0.42% magnesium iv. 0.30-0.35% phosphorus 		

Calving and Fresh Cow Management

Basic Considerations	Yes	No
Are there protocols in place for monitoring and assisting with calving?		
How often are cows monitored in close-up dry cow group for signs of calving?		
How often are cows monitored while calving?		
Do you routinely bottle cows?		
Are there protocols in place for monitoring and treating fresh cows?		
Are fresh cow exams done quickly?		
If fresh cows are locked up for exams, are cows restrained for <1 hour?		