Care At Calving **Pays Big Dividends**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -Spring calving season is here and it's one of the most rewarding times for cattlemen. A top calf crop doesn't just happen - it's the result of long-term planning, superior herd health care, and proven breeding practices.

Dr. John Hough, director of education and research for the American Polled Hereford Association, said by investing a little extra time with your herd, you may increase survival rates, calf health, and ensure more efficient growth potential.

During the last 30 to 45 days of pregnancy, cows will generally need a 10 to 15 percent increase in the ration volume, if they're being fed. For example, this can be an extra two pounds of hay in order to furnish an additional pound of total digestible nutrients (TDN).

The ration quality should be improved at the same time by slightly increasing the protein level. For example, the extra two pounds of hay may be legume or legumegrass mixture. You can also increase protein levels with blocks, liquid supplements, range cubes, or grazing small grain pastures for a short while every four or five days.

"Besides proper nutrition, a good calving site is important so you can keep an eye on calving heifers and cows," Hough said. A small, clean, heavily-sodded pasture will work fine. This allows the cow to calve under natural conditions, rather than being restricted to a stall, shed or pen. Clean, portable calving sheds are beneficial, especially in areas where it may be difficult to check on the cows daily. It is best to avoid muddy lots and crowded enclosures.'

Cows will normally calve in a one to three-hour period. If calving occurs normally, the cow should be left alone. If at all possi-

ble, it's best to check the calf almost as soon as it hits the ground. If delivery has been normal, it's unlikely you will encounter any problems.

"Make sure the calf is breathing and the nostrils are cleared of fetal membranes and mucus," Hough said. "If they are obstructed, quickly remove the material. If the calf is not breathing, try blowing into its nostrils and applying pressure to the chest areas. Or, use a straw to tickle inside the calf's nostrils to stimulate sneezing or coughing."

The calf should stand and nurse within 30 to 45 minutes after birth. If the calf is weak or chilled, rub it briskly with dry cloth or burlap bag to speed circulation.

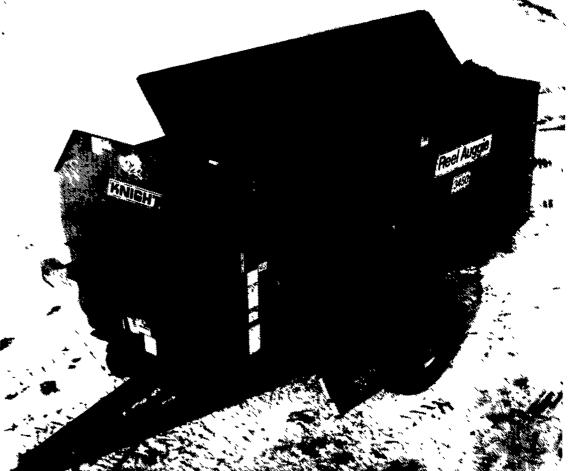
Getting the colostrum, or first milk, into the calf is very important. The colostrum is highly concentrated in nutrients and antibodies to help prevent calf diseases.

Dipping the navel cord into a disinfectant solution can help prevent infection. Many types of disinfectant are available through veterinarians or animal health suppliers.

Once the calf is standing and has been claimed by the cow, most early calf loss problems are eliminated. After this point, most losses are due to scours. The risk of scours can be lowered by keeping the cow and calf in a clean environment and making sure nutritional needs are met. Should scours develop, standard treatment may help, but if you're the least unsure, contact a veterinarian.

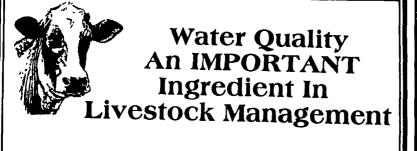
Keeping the cow in top shape after birth will help ensure rebreeding on schedule, generally within 80-85 days.

"By providing good care to the cow and calf, you'll increase the probability of profitable calving and rebreeding seasons," Hough said



BRODHEAD, Wis. — Knight Manufacturing Corporation is pleased to introduce its new Hay-Max Kit for the new 3000 Series Reel Auggle Mixers. This optional kit introduces our best way yet to incorporate long stem hay into a TMR. It allows direct loading of bulk materials, provides thorough break-up of material, reduces mixing time, and decreases surge pressure. The Hay-Max Kit is currently available for all 3000 Series Knight Reel Auggie tow and truck models. Contact your Knight dealer for additional information.

> When it comes to shid-steer loaders, you can afford the bust! Considering the overall cost of ownership, there is no doubt that the value-priced Bobcat "B-Line" loaders are the most affordable in the industry. For top quality, designed-in durability, ease of operation and maintenance, multi-attachment versatility and peak performance... Bobcat is truly your best value.



It's a fact! Contaminated water can have a costly effect on your livestock and poultry performance. Our years of experience plus hundreds of farm related treatment systems has proven the



Mixers Have Hay-Max Kit

validity and practicality of correcting contaminated water.



Martin Water **Conditioning Co.** SPECIALISTS IN FARM WATER TREATMENT

Call us today for treatment of: *Nurates *Bacteria *Iron *Sulfates *pH - Acidity/Alkalinity

548 New Holland Ave. Willis Sharp 740 E. Lincoln Ave. Lancaster, PA 17602 Somerset, PA & Myerstown, PA 17067 (717) 393-3612 Surrounding Counties (717) 866-7555 Along Rte. 23 (814)-893-5081 Along Rte. 422

SEE THE BOBCAT **DEALER IN YOUR AREA**

Philadyboha Avaa DELAWARE VALLEY BOBCAT 215-828-2800 Hanovar. PA FINCH SERVICES 717-632-2345	<u>Mil Hall, PA</u> DUNKLE & GRIEB 717-726-3115 <u>Needmore, PA</u> CLUGSTON FARM EQUIPMENT 717-573-2250	Millinburg, PA BS & B REPAIR 717-966-3756 Lebanon, PA EVERGREEN TRACTOR CO. 717-272-4641 1-800-441-4450	
Honey Grove, PA NORMAN D. CLARK & SON INC. 717-734-3682	<u>Quarrynte, PA</u> GRUMELLI'S FARM SERV. 71 7-786-7 318	Honesdale, PA CHARLES H. SIEPIELA, INC. 717-253-3334	LE 71 80

	vou need us' Everv
1. A.A.	 Boncar occheris;
	backet is a nationally
	presenter a second
	anne appearand
	is second to neve
model	that best fits your work.
08	542B 742B 743B
	ويتبادي والتشاويين والبنيات

Munov. PA C BEST LINE S LEASING, INC. 215 717-546-8422 <u>B</u> 800-321-2378 215			<u>Towanda, PA</u> S.P.E. INC. 717-265-4440 <u>Chambersburg, PA</u> CLUGSTON AG & TURF, INC. 717-263-4103	
Cooling	Air	Liquid	Liquid	Liquid
Fuel	Gas	Gas	Gas	Diesel
Horse Power	165	25	36	36
Rated Operating Capacity	600 lbs	800 lbs	1,300 lbs	1,300 lbs

Select th

44