

Checklist for calving

Calving area

- Wash, disinfect and bed calving area
- Calving gate & other gates working properly
- Prepare a calving kit – jack, leg ropes, gloves and lubricant
- Stock up on calcium and magnesium etc.

Calf shed

- Wash, disinfect and bed calf shed
- Replace teats on calf feeders
- Order tags
- Buy electrolytes
- Tagger, tags, navel disinfectant, stomach tube and straw in calf shed
- Have a fridge and freezer for storing colostrum

Milking Parlour

- Service milking machine and change liners
- Buy teat dip and detergents
- Have tape and marking spray in the parlour pit

Grazing

- Farm map with paddocks labelled on display
- Fence reels repaired or replaced
- Temporary fencing posts purchased and stored at central point
- Water Troughs, Fences & Roadways checked and repaired
- Update feed budget and complete spring rotation planner
- Temporary fences put up immediately after Urea is applied (as soon as weather conditions allow)

Animal care

- Train in calf heifers to milking parlour
- Clip cows and in calf heifer's tails
- Silage analysed for DMD, UFL, PDI and Trace elements and order dry cow minerals to compliment results
- Dry cow diet, feeding plan in place, and supplementation purchased if required
- Thin cows sorted & fed to gain ½ to 1 of a condition score
- Treat dry cows for fluke and worms
- Vaccinate cows according to farm vaccination plan (calf scours etc.)

Personal

- Organise/ hire people and ensure everyone is familiar with farm before calving starts.
- Train any new staff
- Organise roster with family/part-time/ full-time staff
- Create standard operating procedure for key tasks such as milking and calf feeding
- Have a spare set of wellies, wet gear
- Visit GP for a check-up