

Hygiene standards

Feeding equipment hygiene:

- Assessed using 'Surface hygiene test kits'
- Hygiene of feeding equipment declined between visit one and visit two



- Stomach tubes & bottle feeders had consistently poor hygiene

Bedding hygiene:

- Ammonia levels for calves should be <20 ppm
- Bedding ammonia concentrations for visit one and visit two were 13.5 and 16.4 ppm

Behaviour observations

- Compromised welfare can often be identified by an animals behaviour
- Video recordings were made (60 mins)



- Types & frequencies of behaviours were identified:
 - Positive behaviours regularly witnessed
 - Absence of abnormal behaviours

**Observed behaviours indicate
good health/welfare 😊**

Key findings



- Lower mortality found among herds using correct scour treatment procedure
 - ‘Electrolytes + continue to offer milk’ ✓
- Majority of calf losses occur within 28 days of birth
- Mortality not associated with herd size

Take home messages

Good standards of calf health & welfare were identified on commercial farms

Further improvements required in some areas, such as hygiene practises applied