

CALVING COWS/ HEIFERS**1. PURPOSE**

To facilitate comfort and ease of calving and to identify and address any complications which may arise.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- 2.1 Trained and qualified personnel
- 2.2 Herd Manger
- 2.3 Veterinarian

3. MATERIALS

- 3.1

- 4.7 Abnormal presentation requires the assistance of the veterinarian or an experienced herdsman to position the fetus correctly prior to delivery. If unable to position to allow for vaginal delivery, a veterinarian should be consulted.

5. PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Ensure the preparation of equipment in case of assisted delivery is required. (Refer to SOP [DC-405: Pre-Partum Preparation of Dairy Cattle](#))

5.1.1 Prepare pulling chains and handles in a pail of warm water and Endure®.

5.1.2 Prepare lubricating gel, gloves, and insemination gloves in a plastic caddy.

5.1.3 Leave materials near the box stall.

5.2

5.10

5.10.1 Restrain the cow/ heifer with a halter if she is standing and nervous.

5.10.2 Wash the vulva and rectum with diluted Endure and paper towel.

5.10.3 Don and lubricate insemination gloves.

5.10.4 Lubricate the vagina.

5.10.5 Examine the cervix for dilation:

5.10.5.1 Admission of 2 to 3 fingers:

5.10.5.1.1 Non2 to 3 fingers:

Bloody discharge - may be signaling an abortion.

Cow/heifer was pushing but has stopped.

Water has broken and she has stopped pushing after ½ an hour and/or there is no sign of the hooves.

One hoof showing or hind hooves showing, both look very similar at this stage.

Pushing for a while with no progress.

First thing in the morning finding bedding pushed up the walls, she's exhausted and/or eyes sunken in.

FACTORS CAUSING DYSTOCIA

Calf Effects	Birth weights are influenced by the genetics of the sire and dam, sex of the calf, age of the cow/heifer, environmental temperature conditions, and nutrition of the cow/heifer. The shape of the calf may also have a small effect.
Cow/heifer Effects	Age and pelvic size are the major factors to influence dystocia.
Age	2-year-old heifers require more assistance at calving than do cow/heifers because these females usually have smaller pelvic areas.

Pelvic Area

5.11 POST DELIVERY CARE FOR THE CALF:

[DC-501: Colostrum Management](#)

[DC-504: Newborn Calf Care](#)

[DC-505: Calf Feeding](#)

