

ANIPLAN Calf

Welfare assessment in organic herds

0-6 month old calves

Name advisor(s):

Visit no:

Date:



1. Farm data	
Name of farmer	
Address	
Producer number	
Housing system	
Breed and number of cows	
Total number of calves (0-6 months)	
Number of calves for beef production	
Number of calves for replacement	

Housing, group size and no. of calves (e.g. <1 week, 1-4 weeks, 1-3 months, 3-6 months)

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Animal flow and other information on management

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Plan of Barn:

Draw a rough sketch

Also take photos! (Ask farmer for permission first.)

Give every pen a number and note observation points for the QBA-test.

Mark how many animals there are in each pen and if they are weaned or not (5.3, 5.4 or 5.5).

2. Health parameters

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

2.1 Annual report

Stillborn calves
Calving difficulties
Age by first calving

Values from records Comments

Values from records	Comments

2.2 Health report

Average no. of treatments
per calf < 6 months

Values from records Comments

Values from records	Comments

2.3 Individual health records (heifer calves < 6 months)

Kind of treatments given by the vet
or by the producer, also alternative
treatments (describe)

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2.4 Individual health records - beef production (bull calves < 6 months)

Kind of treatments given by the vet
or by the producer, also alternative
treatments (describe)

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2.5 Herd health report (0-6 months)

Disbudding (dehorning), estimated %
Castration, estimated % of bull calves
Preventive treatments against
endo/ectoparasites (describe)

Values from records Comments

Values from records	Comments

Mortality calves 0-6 months (%)

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1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

	1	2	3	Not possible to evaluate
Quality of health record keeping				

Current health situation			
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3. Behaviour

3.1 Qualitative behaviour assessment in group housed calves (QBA)

The duration of the QBA-test is 15 minutes.

The 15 minutes period is divided between housing systems present; does not need to be representative of the calf population within categories. You can spend the same amount of time for a few calves in a specific system (example: two calves in a hut outdoor) as for a group of six calves in a pen.

Minimum 2.5 min. per observation point, i.e. maximum 6 observation points per herd.

Mark every observation point in the sketch over the barn (1. Farm data).

Use the observation point number when scoring.

Please observe the groups of calves for a total of 15 minutes, and then assess their behavioural expression ('body language') by scoring the following terms:

Active aktiv aktiv	Min.	Max
Relaxed entspannt avslappet	Min.	Max
Fearful ängstlich/furchtsam fryktsom	Min.	Max
Agitated aufgeregt opphisset	Min.	Max
Depressed depressed deprimert	Min.	Max
Calm ruhig rolig	Min.	Max
Tense angespannt anspent	Min.	Max
Indifferent desinteressiert, gleichgültig likegyldig, uinteressert	Min.	Max
Frustrated frustriert frustret	Min.	Max
Friendly freundlich vennlig	Min.	Max
Bored gelangweilt kjeder seg	Min.	Max

Playful verspielt leken	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Lively lebhaft livlig	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Inquisitive neugierig nysgjerrig	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Boisterous heftig, ungestüm bråkete, heftig, voldsom	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Uneasy ruhelos, unruhig urolig	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Sociable gesellig, kontaktfreudig sosial	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Apathetic apatisk, teilnahmslos apatisk	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	

Now that you have scored these terms, please take a moment to form an idea of the overall state of the animals you have observed. Integrating everything, please score the following terms:

Happy glücklich glad	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Distressed unglücklich ulykkelig	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	
Overall welfare impression	Min.	Max
	<hr/>	

Any other comments (abnormal behaviours etc.):

3.2 Behaviour group housed calves

Human-animal relationship, chest measuring

This test is a qualitative evaluation of the calves' reactions on the stockman's handling procedure while doing the chest girth measurement. This is an indication on the stockman-calf relationship. The test is a total assessment of a group of calves.

Procedure:

The observer must be familiar with the scoring terms before the test starts.

The observer finds a location with good view to all calves in the group.

The stockman walks into the pen and measures the chest girth on all calves.

The observer evaluates the calves' total behavioural response and then records his/her assessment on a scale from min. to max. using the following terms:

Active aktiv aktiv	Min.	Max
Relaxed entspannt avslappet	Min.	Max
Fearful ängstlich/furchtsam fryktsom, engstelig	Min.	Max
Agitated aufgeregt opphisset	Min.	Max
Depressed depressed deprimert	Min.	Max
Calm ruhig rolig	Min.	Max
Tense angespannt anspent	Min.	Max
Indifferent desinteressiert, gleichgültig likegyldig, uinteressert	Min.	Max
Frustrated frustriert frustret	Min.	Max
Friendly freundlich vennlig	Min.	Max

Bored
gelangweilt
kjeder seg

Min. _____ Max

Playful
verspielt
leken

Min. _____ Max

Lively
lebhaft
livlig

Min. _____ Max

Inquisitive
neugierig
nysgjerrig

Min. _____ Max

Boisterous
heftig, ungestüm
bråkete, heftig, voldsom

Min. _____ Max

Uneasy
ruhelos, unruhig
urolig

Min. _____ Max

Sociable
gesellig, kontaktfreudig
sosial

Min. _____ Max

Apathetic
apatisk, teilnahmslos
apatisk

Min. _____ Max

Now that you have scored these terms, please take a moment to form an idea of the overall state of the animals you have observed. Integrating everything, please score the following terms:

Happy
glücklich
glad

Min. _____ Max

Distressed
unglücklich
ulykkelig

Min. _____ Max

Overall welfare
impression

Min. _____ Max

Any other comments (abnormal behaviours etc.):

4. Clinical score

NB! Every calf, or a minimum of 15 calves are to be assessed!
Score 1, 2 or 3 for each calf.

1 = Good, action unnecessary
2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended
3 = Major deviations, actions needed

Ear tag no.																
4.1 Body condition																
4.2 Respiration, including coughing																
4.3 Nasal discharges																
4.4 Ocular discharges																
4.5 Umbilical disorder																
4.6 Diarrhoea																
4.7 Locomotion/ lameness																
4.8 Cleanliness																
4.9 Skin lesions																
4.10 Fur quality (shiny, dull, bristly, hairless patches)																
4.11 General impression of health																

Comments:

4.12 General impression of calf herd health			
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5. Housing

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

Non-marked questions may also be of relevance to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

5.1 Calving pen

Step 1	1	2	3	Comments
5.1.1 Availability (1 pen /25 animals)				
5.1.2 Cleanliness in general				
5.1.3 Quality of laying area (regulation: Min 50% of total area with solid floor)				
5.1.4 Space enough to performe natural behavior				
5.1.5 Access to fodder				
5.1.6 Access to clean water				
5.1.7 Draught				
5.1.8 Light				
5.1.9 Quality of air				
5.1.10 Also in use for sick animals?				
5.1.11 When is cow moved into pen?				
5.1.12 Routines for supervision around calving				
5.1.13 When are cow and calf separated?				
5.1.14 General impression of calving pen				

If score in one or more parameters are 2 or 3, and there is need for more information, please go to step 2 and assess relevant parameters

Step 2

5.1.15 Routines of umbilical disinfection				
5.1.16 Hygiene, feeding rack				
5.1.17 Functional pen (risk of injuries)				
5.1.18 Humidity (instrumental)				
5.1.19 NH ₃ (instrumental)				
5.1.20 Dust				

5.2 Pen for sick animal

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

Non marked questions may also be relevant to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

Step 1	1	2	3	Comments
5.2.1 Availability				
5.2.2 Cleanliness in general				
5.2.3 Quality of laying area (regulation: Min 50% of total area with solid floor)				
5.2.4 Space enough to performe natural behavior				
5.2.5 Access to fodder				
5.2.6 Access to clean water				
5.2.7 Draught				
5.2.8 Light				
5.2.9 Quality of air				
5.2.10 Heating lamp				
5.2.11 General impression of pen for sick animal				

If score in one or more parameters are 2 or 3, and there is need for more information, please go to step 2 and assess relevant parameters

Step 2

5.2.12 Hygiene, feeding rack				
5.2.13 Cleaning routines of pen				
5.2.14 Functionality of pen (risk of injuries e.g.)				
5.2.15 Humidity (instrumental)				
5.2.16 NH ₃ (instrumental)				
5.2.17 Dust				

5.3 Individual pens (< 1 week old)

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

Non marked questions may also be of relevance to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

Step 1	1	2	3	Comments
5.3.1 Cleanliness in general	1	2	3	
5.3.2 Quality of laying area	1	2	3	
5.3.3 Space enough to performe natural behavior	1	2	3	
5.3.4 Draught	1	2	3	
5.3.5 Light	1	2	3	
5.3.6 Quality of air	1	2	3	
5.3.7 Routines of feeding roughage, amount and quality	1	2	3	
5.3.8 Routines of feeding concentrates, amount and freshness	1	2	3	
5.3.9 Access to water, waterquality	1	2	3	
5.3.10 Duration of time kept in single box	1	2	3	
5.3.11 Contact with other calves	1	2	3	
5.3.12 General impression of individual pens	1	2	3	

If score in one or more parameters are 2 or 3, and there is need for more information, please go to step 2 and assess relevant parameters

Step 2

5.3.13 Hygiene, milk bucket/bottle	1	2	3	
5.3.14 Functionality of pen (risk of injuries e.g.)	1	2	3	
5.3.15 Humidity (instrumental)	1	2	3	
5.3.16 NH ₃ (instrumental)	1	2	3	
5.3.17 Temperature	1	2	3	

5.4 Group housing with milk feeding

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked.

Non marked questions may also be relevant to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

Step 1	1	2	3	Comments
5.4.1 Cleanliness in general	1	2	3	
5.4.2 Quality of laying area	1	2	3	
5.4.3 Quality of walking area (not slippery)	1	2	3	
5.4.4 Space enough to performe natural behaviour	1	2	3	
5.4.5 Draught	1	2	3	
5.4.6 Light	1	2	3	
5.4.7 Quality of air	1	2	3	
5.4.8 Uniform animal age/size per group	1	2	3	
5.4.9 Routines of feeding roughage, amount and quality	1	2	3	
5.4.10 Routines of feeding concentrates, amount and freshness	1	2	3	
5.4.11 Mineral supplement	1		3	
5.4.12 Access to water, water quality	1	2	3	
5.4.13 Stable groups	1		3	
5.4.14 General impression of group housed calves	1	2	3	

If score in one or more parameters are 2 or 3, and there is need for more information, please go to step 2 and assess relevant parameters

Step 2

bucket/ automatic milk feeder	1	2	3	
5.4.16 Hygiene, feeding rack	1	2	3	
5.4.17 Functionality of pen (risk of injuries e.g.)	1	2	3	
5.4.18 Humidity (instrumental)	1		3	
5.4.19 NH ₃ (instrumental)	1		3	
5.4.20 Temperature	1		3	
5.4.21 Roughage quality: If neccessary, take a sample of roughage for analysis				

5.5 Group housing without milk feeding, > 3 months

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

Non marked questions may also be relevant to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

Step 1	1	2	3	Comments
5.5.1 Cleanliness in general				
5.5.2 Quality of laying area				
5.5.3 Quality of walking area (not slippery)				
5.5.4 Space enough to performe natural behavior				
5.5.5 Draught				
5.5.6 Light				
5.5.7 Quality of air				
5.5.8 Uniform animal size per group				
5.5.9 Routines of feeding roughage, amount and quality				
5.5.10 Routines of feeding concentrates, amount and freshness				
5.5.11 Mineral supplementation				
5.5.12 Access to water, water quality				
5.5.13 Stable groups				
5.5.14 General impression of group housed calves				

If score in one or more parameters are 2 or 3, and there is need for more information, please go to step 2 and assess relevant parameters

Step 2

5.5.15 Hygiene, feeding rack				
5.5.16 Functionality of pen (risk of injuries e.g.)				
5.5.17 Humidity (instrumental)				
5.5.18 NH ₃ (instrumental)				
5.5.19 Roughage quality: If neccesary, take a sample of roughage for analysis				

5.6 Calves outdoors

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

Non marked questions may also be relevant to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

	1	2	3	Comments
5.6.1 Cleanliness of calves				
5.6.2 Access to shelter				
5.6.3 Access to shade				
5.6.4 Quality of laying area				
5.6.5 Ground conditions				
5.6.6 Space enough to performe natural behaviour				
5.6.7 Access to roughage/ grass, amount and quality				
5.6.8 Access to concentrates, amount and freshness				
5.6.9 Mineral supplementation				
5.6.10 Access to water, water quality				
5.6.11 Stable groups, age and size				
5.6.12 Supervision				
5.6.13 General impression of calves outdoors				

6. Feeding routines

6.1 Colostrum

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

Non marked questions may also be relevant to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

Step 1	1	2	3	Comments
6.1.1 How is colostrum intake ensured within 6 h.				
6.1.2 How is colostrum intake ensured within 12 h.				
6.1.3 Routines of giving colostrum to weak calves				
6.1.4 Routines of udder check after birth				
6.1.5 Suckling routines the first three days				
6.1.6 Colostrum intake after suckling				
6.1.7 General impression of colostrum routines				

If score in one or more parameters are 2 or 3, and there is need for more information, please go to step 2 and assess relevant parameters

Step 2

6.1.8 Feeding sour colostrum				
6.1.9 Temperature if bucket/ bottle feeding (35-37C)				
6.1.10 Adequate cooling				
6.1.11 Frozen storage				
6.1.12 Adequate heating before feeding				
6.1.13 Colostrum quality				
If necessary: Require a blood sample to check the level of IgG level in calf				

Colostrum feeding system:

Describe:

6.2 Feeding of milk

Questions to farmer/stockperson are marked in blue

Non marked questions may also be relevant to ask the farmer.

1 = Good, action unnecessary

2 = Few or minor deviations, actions recommended

3 = Major deviations, actions needed

Step 1	1	2	3	Comments
6.2.1 Milk feeding 1-4 weeks				
6.2.2 Milk feeding 1-3 months				
6.2.3 Weaning age and weaning routines				
6.2.4 If suckling system with foster cow: Acceptance				
6.2.5 If natural suckling: Routines at separation				
6.2.6 General impression of milk feeding routines				

Milk feeding system:

Describe: (Suckling, foster cow, bottle/bucket with teats, automatic milk feeder e.g.)

If score in one or more parameters are 2 or 3, and there is need for more information, please go to step 2 and assess relevant parameters

Step 2

6.2.7 Feeding sour milk - quality				
6.2.8 Adequate storage of milk				
6.2.9 Temperature milk calves < 2 weeks				
6.2.10 Adequate heating of milk calves > 2 weeks				