4-H DAIRY CALF AND HEIFER RECORD

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Your Name (please print)

County

Address

Name of 4-H Club

Breed of Cattle

This record is for first and second year members only. Is this your first or second year? ______

It is not necessary for you to keep this record on more than one calf or heifer.

Cover this space with a snapshot of your calf or yearling. Pose her as near as possible to professional pictures shown in breed magazines. She should be standing on a slight incline and the picture should be taken at approximately a 30-degree angle from the rear.

Rearing Calves and Heifers

It is important to feed and care for your calf properly in order for her to grow rapidly and be large enough to breed at about 15 months of age and, thus, to calve at 24 months. Calves that are not grown-out well cannot express their true genetic potential for milk production.

There are a number of successful ways to house baby calves; however, they all include the following principles: 1. Low stress; make the calf comfortable. 2. Provide a dry floor on which the calf may stand or lie; bedding of straw is excellent for providing warmth and the absorption of urine and manure. 3. The building must be well-ventilated but not drafty; calves simply
cannot tolerate drafts. 4. Low humidity; moisture must not be condensed on the walls or ceiling.

Milk is the best feed for baby calves; however, milk replacer is also suitable. Milk replacer is usually more economical. When feeding milk replacer it is suggested to purchase the type that is made from milk products rather than plant products. It should contain approximately 20 percent crude protein. Many dairymen also prefer a fat percentage of approximately 20 percent instead of 10 percent. There is usually less difficulty with scours.

Silage and pasture is not recommended until calves are six months of age if they are to rely on it heavily for much of their feed. Young heifers have a high requirement for energy and protein, and their relatively small stomach capacity should therefore be used for feeds that have a higher dry matter content, such as grain concentrates and hay.

Yearling heifers can be fed economically during winter on good hay and silage with only a few pounds of grain.

During the summer, heifers can make good gains on pasture. Supplemental hay should be fed if the pasture becomes short or dry.

Study Table I carefully and then keep it up-to-date by filling in the blanks each month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE I. FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT RECORD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kinds and pounds of feed used daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole milk (pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk replacers*(pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calf starter (pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain mixture (pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay (pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silage (pounds)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasture (quality)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* do not include water.

Total Cost __________

Mo. ___ day ____ year ___

Name and number of Calf or Heifer if registered; barn name and ear tag if grade

Breed Animal’s Date of Birth Date Selected Date Record Was Started

Give weight of animal and age, in months, at time this record was started. Weight _______ pounds; Age _______ months.
Table 2. GROWTH STANDARD FOR DAIRY HEIFERS

WEIGHT (lbs.)

HEIFERS SHOULD be BRED at MINIMUM WEIGHTS of:

- HOLSTEIN & BROWN SWISS - 800
- AYRSHIRE - 700
- GUERNSEY - 650
- JERSEY - 600

INSTRUCTIONS: Tape measure your calf on approximately the same day each month. Place a large dot at the correct point on the growth curve to indicate her weight. Connect the dots with a heavy solid line each month so that you can compare the growth of your calf with the standard of its breed. If your calf drops sharply below the standard of the breed, perhaps you can determine the cause and correct it. A high growth curve should also reflect good management. The standard growth curve for Brown Swiss is nearly the same as for Holsteins.
In the space below, write a story about your 4-H activities during the past year. Tell about any problems you may have had in rearing your calf, and how you might improve your calf rearing methods next year. Also, describe showing your heifer, giving a demonstration, or other experiences in your 4-H Program.

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