



Calving Season Management

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District of Temiskaming





Farm Background



- Beef cows for 40 years
 - 110 Charolais-cross
- Cash crop
 - Cereals
 - Oilseeds
- Pick-your-own
Strawberry patch

Calving Season Management

- Cows calve:
March 15 – May 15
- Wean and sell calves
in the fall
- Sale weight:
450 – 550 lbs



Calving Season Management

- **Winter sites**

- ✓ Cows are in field

- ✓ Windbreaks

- **Transition calving management**

- ✓ 4 weeks before calving

- Switch to better quality hay

- Change to high selenium mineral

- Allow cows access to hay barn as hay is fed out

- Movable gates to allow more space as hay is fed



Hay / Calving Barn



Cow management

- First and second calvers (heifers) are kept separate.
- Couple of calving pens available if a cow has problems.
- Currently both pre- and post- calving cows are housed together.
 - ✓ Plans for another barn in the future for post-calving COWS



Wintering Area

Calf Management at Birth

- Injections

- ✓ Vitamins A & D

- ✓ Vitamins E & selenium

- Have had White Muscle disease previously

- Management

- ✓ Males castrated

- ✓ Dehorned if necessary

Calf Management Post Calving

- Bedding

- ✓ A lot of straw used in calving barn
- ✓ Creep area where calves can get away from moms

- Vaccinations

- ✓ At pasture turnout
 - Bovishield
 - Ultrabac/Somubac

Bull Management

- All Natural Breeding
 - ✓ Mature bulls: 40 cows per bull
 - ✓ Yearling bulls: 25 cows per bull
- Bull Management
 - ✓ Rolled Oats/ Hay
 - ✓ Good condition / Not fat

Cow Management

- Pregnancy Checked
 - ✓ Fall checked
 - ✓ Open cows culled

Future Goals

- Reduce Calving Season length
 - ✓ Currently aim for 6 weeks, but reality bulls are in for 3 months
 - ✓ Would like to reduce this
- Have considered summer calving
 - ✓ Marketing change required



Questions ???

