



ClieNFarms
Climate Neutral Farms

ClieNFarms Practice Abstracts

Improve health and growth of young animals on beef farms to improve GHG emission

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Controlling calf mortality and growth improves economic performance and reduces GHG emissions. In a calving unit with 70 calves, a 4% reduction in mortality and a 100g/day increase in growth, enabled by improved health conditions, results in a 3% reduction in GHG emissions. Economically, the sale of three additional calves' results in a net gain of €2,750/year for the farm, despite the additional distribution of 200kg of concentrates per calf.

A good start for the calf, good health, sufficient milk from the mother, and then a gradual feeding of forage and concentrate will allow it to achieve a high weight at weaning.

Good health management is the result of many factors:

- Cow preparation: satisfactory body and health conditions (vaccines, mineralization, trace elements).
- Calving location and environment (building, calving and calf pen, hygiene, etc).
- Calf monitoring, first aid, and health management.
- Feed, rapid colostrum intake, etc.
- Genetics through improved calving ease and maternal qualities.

Finally, concentrating the calving period over a period where other work is limited allows for full dedication to this work. Concentrating the breeding period, the starting point, allows for concentrated calvings, consistent herds, and optimized feed and work.



Figure 1 : Animal health.



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