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## Natural Ventilation (Continued)

**Figure 4**



These pens illustrate a nearly ideal calf pen design, characterized by two solid sides between pens that can be removed from the calf room for cleaning, open mesh fronts and rears, except for a low solid barrier about 20 inches high in the rear. There is a 16" space between the two rows of stalls shown. Deep straw bedding is used in the winter. An alternative to the sloped drain in front of the pen is to make a deep, crushed rock base to the stalls with tile drainage, covered with sand that is replaced periodically, and further covered with deep straw bedding in winter. The natural ventilation provided by the open sidewalls is supplemented with a positive pressure tube delivery system and fan that distributes about 25-30 cfm of fresh air per calf throughout the barn on a year-around basis.

**Figure 5**



The calf's legs are not visible while lying down. The calf can nest and prevent the loss of body heat when the barn temperature is below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the lower range of the thermo-neutral zone of week-old calves.

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## Research & Other News:

### From Germany (J. Dairy Sc. 89: 627-635)

- \* 563 cows with retained placentas were put on one of 4 treatments:
  - no treatment
  - antibiotic pills (500 mg ampicillin & 500 mg cloxacillin) placed in uterus
  - physically removing retained placenta
  - physically removing retained placenta and antibiotic pills
- \* all cows with temps above 103 degrees F were given ceftiofur for 3-5 days
- \* all cows were give 2 doses of PGF<sub>2α</sub>, one at 10-24 d and one at 32-38 d
- \* reproductive performance did not differ between any of the groups
- \* occurrence of fever in 1<sup>st</sup> 10 d was lower in animals treated in antibiotic pills

### From Spain (J. Dairy Sc. 89:337-342)

- \* 1<sup>st</sup> lactation cows were put in a pen with all 1<sup>st</sup> lactation animals or a pen with only 30% 1<sup>st</sup> lactation animals
- \* all cows were milked by robotic milkers
- \* milk and feed intakes were similar among groups
- \* in 100% 1<sup>st</sup> lactation groups, the cows ate 1 additional meal per day although time spent eating was shorter for each meal

### From USA (J. Dairy Sc. 89:365-370)

- \* calving ages and intervals were studied for 5 different breeds
- \* over 15 million calvings between 1980 and 2004
- \* the first calving interval (b/w lactation 1 and 2) has increased from 385 to 398 days in Jerseys and from 395 to 415 days in Holsteins
- \* age at first calving from 1980 to 2004, dropped from 26.5 months to 24 months in Jerseys, 28 months to <26 months in Holsteins

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## New Calf Health Scoring Chart

A new calf scoring chart has been developed by School of Veterinary Medicine at UW-Madison. This is a great tool for employees to monitor calf health and communicate that to employers. This is a great way to stay on top of health problems. A copy of the visual chart is on the following page. For a color copy please visit the following web site:

[http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/8calf/calf\\_health\\_scoring\\_chart.pdf](http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/8calf/calf_health_scoring_chart.pdf)

If you want a laminated version for your work room, give me a call and I'll (Paul) make one for you.