

# CALF 911

## CALF VIGOR SCORING

### VISUAL APPEARANCE

<b>V</b>	Yellow Staining (Meconium)	Normal: no staining <b>3</b>	Slight: around anal/ tail head area <b>2</b>	Moderate: extending over body <b>1</b>	Severe: fully covered <b>0</b>
	Tongue/Head	Normal: no swelling, tongue <b>3</b>	Tongue protruding but not swollen <b>2</b>	Tongue protruding and swollen <b>1</b>	Head and tongue swollen, tongue <b>0</b>

### INITIATION OF MOVEMENT

<b>I</b>	Calf Movement	Standing/walking 0-30 min. <b>3</b>	Attempts to stand 30 min. - 1.5 hr. <b>2</b>	Sitting upright (Sternal) 1.5 hr. - 3 hr. <b>1</b>	On side, no efforts to rise > 3 hr. <b>0</b>
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### GENERAL RESPONSIVENESS

<b>G</b>	Suckling Reflex	Strong <b>3</b>	Medium <b>2</b>	Weak <b>1</b>	No response <b>0</b>
	Head Shake (in response to straw in nose)	Shakes head vigorously <b>3</b>	Moves head away <b>2</b>	Twitches or flinches <b>1</b>	Does not respond <b>0</b>
	Tongue Pinch	Actively withdraws tongue <b>3</b>	Attempts to withdraw <b>2</b>	Twitches tongue <b>1</b>	Does not respond <b>0</b>
	Eye Reflex (after touching eyeball)		Actively blinks and closes eye <b>2</b>	Slow to blink <b>1</b>	Does not respond <b>0</b>

### OXYGENATION

<b>O</b>	Mucous Membrane Colour	Bright pink <b>3</b>	Light pink <b>2</b>	Brick red <b>1</b>	White/blue <b>0</b>
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### RATES

<b>R</b>	Heart Rate (bpm= beats per minute)	Normal: 90-160 bpm <b>2</b>	Rapid/irregular: >160 bpm <b>1</b>	Slow/absent: <90 bpm <b>0</b>
	<i>(To measure heart rate, put your hand on the calf's chest. Take pulse for 15 seconds and multiply by four.)</i>			
	Respiration (rrpm= respiratory rate per minute)	Normal: 40-70- rrpm <b>2</b>	Slow: <40 rrpm <b>1</b>	Fast: >70 rrpm <b>0</b>

#### CALF VIGOR SCORE:

Add the points above to establish score. Poor or marginal calves require early intervention.

**< 17 = Poor**  
**18-20 = Marginal**  
**21-22 = Good**  
**23-25 = Very Good**  
**26-27 = Excellent**

Adapted from the research of:



Intervention techniques are available at:  
[BeefResearch.ca/calf911](http://BeefResearch.ca/calf911)

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