

THE LIFE OF A DAIRY CALF



1



My story starts before I am born...When my dam (mom) looks like she is going to calve, she will be placed in a pen by herself with clean, dry straw or other bedding. This helps to decrease the amount of bacteria I may be exposed to when I am born.

2



When I am born, the farmer helps clear my airways and makes sure I am breathing properly, will dip my navel in iodine, and will give me colostrum (the initial milk that a cow produces that contains antibodies to help my immune system).

3



I am then moved to a hutch with a small run. The hutch is bedded down with clean straw, and is warm and dry. I will be given colostrum at least two more times in the first 24 hours of my life, and will have access to clean water and feed.

4



I stay in my hutch for 5-8 weeks. The farmer checks on me multiple times a day. I have my own fresh water, milk and food, and room to move around. I can see other calves so I can socialize.

5



I will be weaned off of milk replacer and on to a diet of calf starter feed and clean water. I am moved to a pen with other calves and will stay with this group of calves as I grow and develop.

6



When I reach the proper age, I will be bred. My calf will be placed in a clean, warm, dry hutch and is well cared for. I will enter the milking herd where I produce milk for drinking, or to be used for ice cream, butter, cheese, yogurt or many other products!