

Calving at Flatland Farm

Calving time: Feb-April

- Why?
 - To avoid the worst of the mud
 - Avoid flies
 - Better calf growth with colder weather – they have to eat to stay warm
- Where? We are home in winter lots until mid-May

Calving Prep:

- Cameras operational (best investment we have made for our sanity!)
- Clean calving pens ready – deep straw bedding
- Loose mineral kept in feeders
- Good quality grass hay to avoid large calf sizes
- Straw bedding in winter lots to keep cows clean
- Check Calving Kits
 - New [colostrum packets](#) available
 - [OB straps](#) and [handles](#) clean and ready to go
 - [OB gloves](#)
 - [OB lube](#)
 - [Iodine – 1%](#)
 - We use 1% to avoid burning the navel, we apply it 2 times daily until umbilical cord is dry
 - [Small dixie cups](#) work well for dipping navels. 1 per calf – don't use on multiple calves
 - Bottle and nipple clean and ready
 - [Tube feeder with valve](#)
 - [Thermometer](#)
 - [Start-up Gel](#) – if slow starting calf, oral probiotics
 - [Peppermint Udder Cream](#) – to help soothe an over-full udder
 - Vaseline to put on calf butt and under tail to help manure slide off and not stick
- Review the [AHCA Highland Breeder's Guide](#): Calving Time (p27)
 - LEA-White Farms also has [great calving resources](#) (Pat White wrote the Highland Breeder's Guide Calving Time section)
- Have your veterinarian's phone number handy

*Links above are to show an example of an item, it is not an endorsement of a product or place to purchase it. Find what works best for you.