



**Virginia
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The Rest of the Story

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Preparing for production...

- Must have a calf or kid to produce milk
- Last 60 days of gestation (pregnancy) they should be in a positive energy balance.
- Each animal will “bag” up differently, some over a few weeks, some quickly then calve
- 24 hrs before calving they will begin to produce milk, teats will fill out, they will be more uncomfortable and ligaments will begin to “loosen”

About a week out

Will start to get some swelling
in udder and possibly naval area

May need to feed more energy
so that they make enough
colostrum



24 hours before calving

- More swelling
- More uncomfortable
- Start to produce milk
- Ligaments loosen



Calving day!



Have a clean dry space to calve in

Look for proper positioning of calf – two feet with the dewclaws down.

There are several different abnormal calf positions that will likely need intervention.

Abnormal calving positions

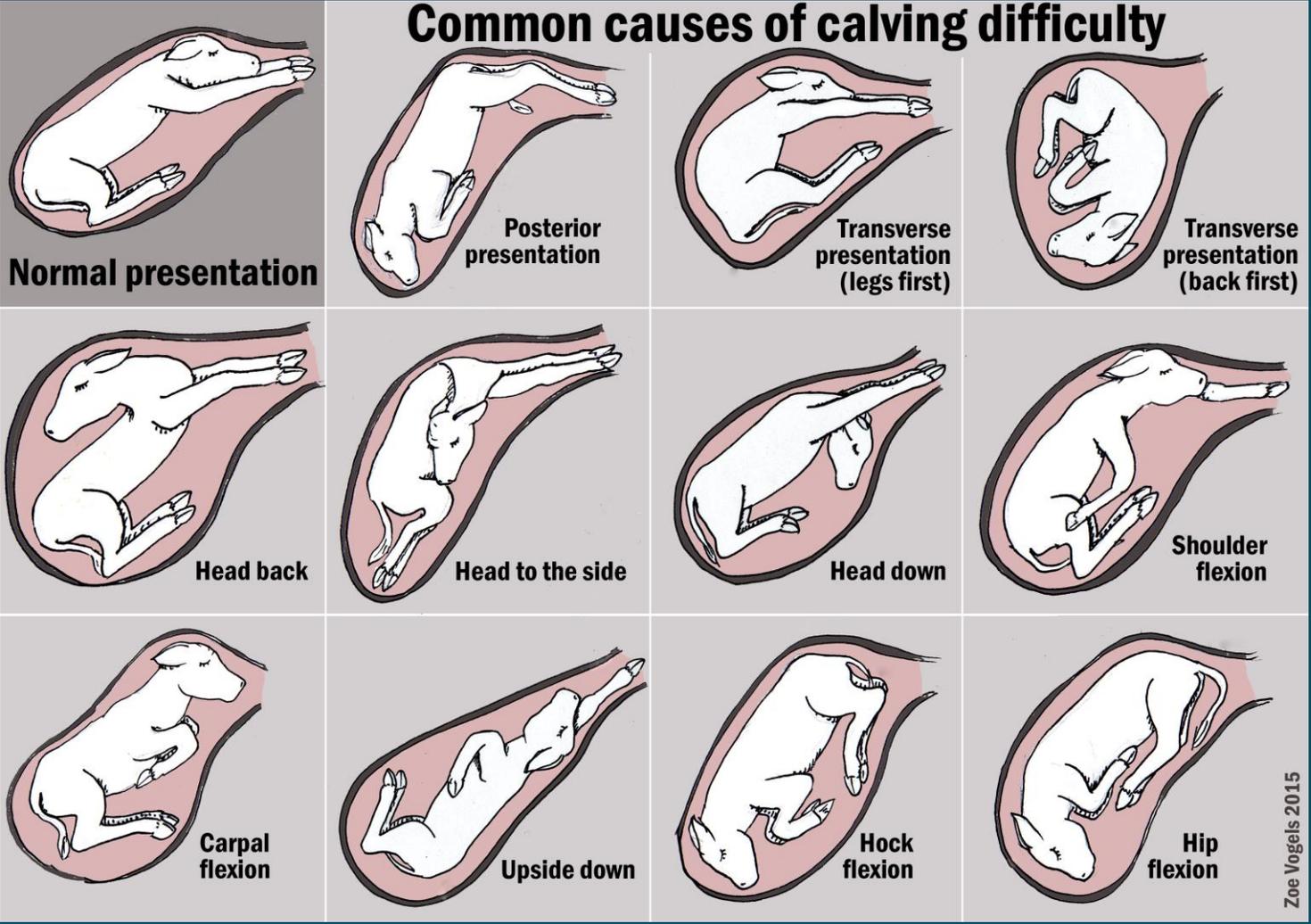
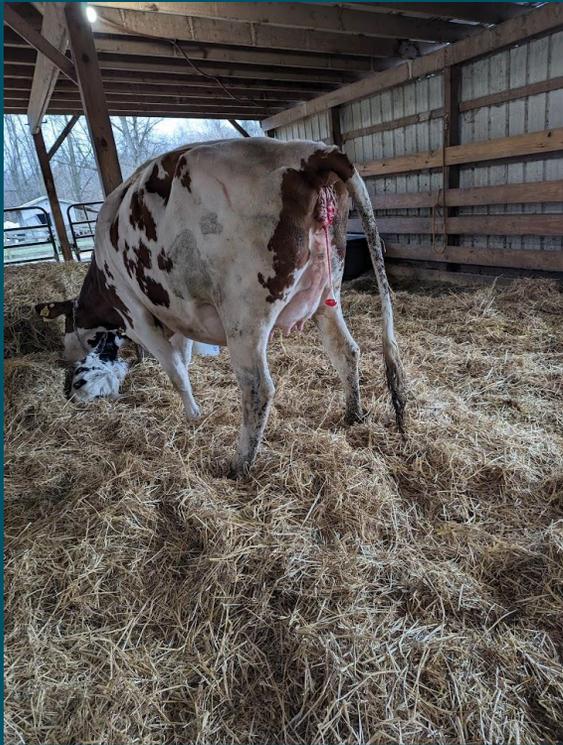


Diagram by Zoe Vogels

Once the calf is out

- Make sure calf is breathing
- Cow will get up and lick on calf
- Calf will attempt to stand within the first hour
- Have fresh warm water available for cow to drink; 5-10 gallons
- Don't get between cow and calf

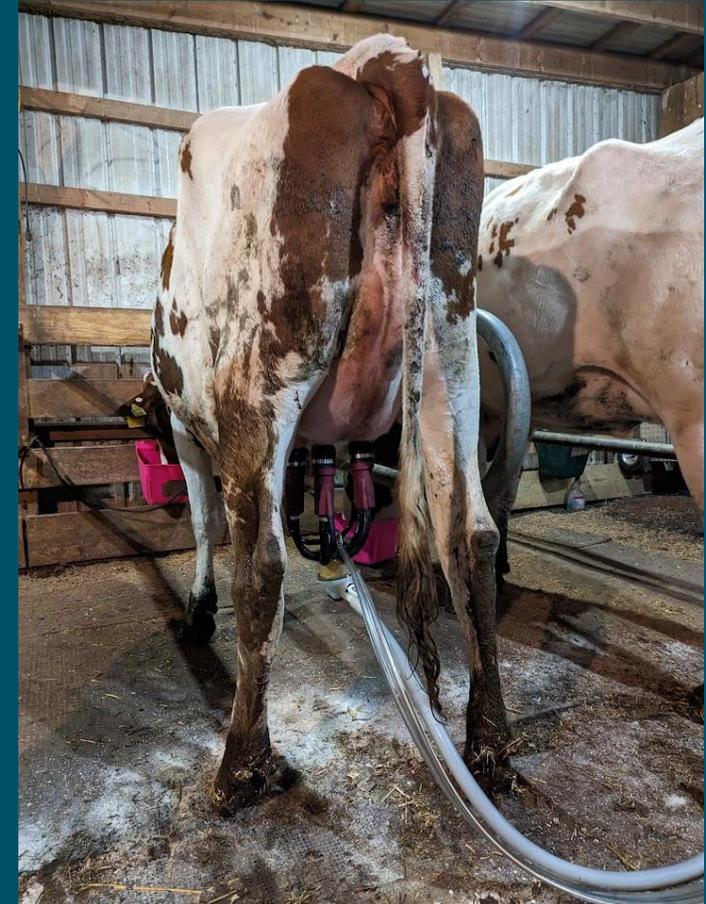


Collect the Colostrum

Clean, Clean, Clean!

If the udder is hairy, clip the hair off, clean the teats, make sure equipment is clean, wear nitrile gloves

Feed or cool milk immediately!



Monitor Cow

- Monitor Appetite
- Monitor Temperature, normal is 101.5
- Monitor demeanor
- Check milk for mastitis
- Watch for uterine infections
- Watch for milk fever



The Lactation Curve

- Milk production will increase until about 60 days in milk and then typically decrease about 5% per month after that.
- Somewhere around 60 days postpartum, the cow will be ready to breed again.

If the milk is being consumed raw



Test the cow annually:

- Tuberculosis
- Brucellosis
- Bovine Viral Diarrhea (1X)
- Paratuberculosis (Johnes)
- Bovine Leukosis Virus (BLV)
- Genetic test for A2 protein

VDACS labs can test for these



Milk Collection

- By Hand
- Vacuum Pump and bucket milker
- Clean, Clean, Clean!
- Wear gloves
- Sanitize teats
- Single use towels
- Post dip with skin conditioners and disinfectant

Cooling

- Should be less than 45 degrees within 1 hour
- Storage at less than 40 degrees
- Bacteria doubles every 20 minutes at room temperature

For Consumption



Home Pasteurizer



Cream Separator

Products

- Yogurt
- Kefir
- Cheese
- Butter

Breed Back to calve again

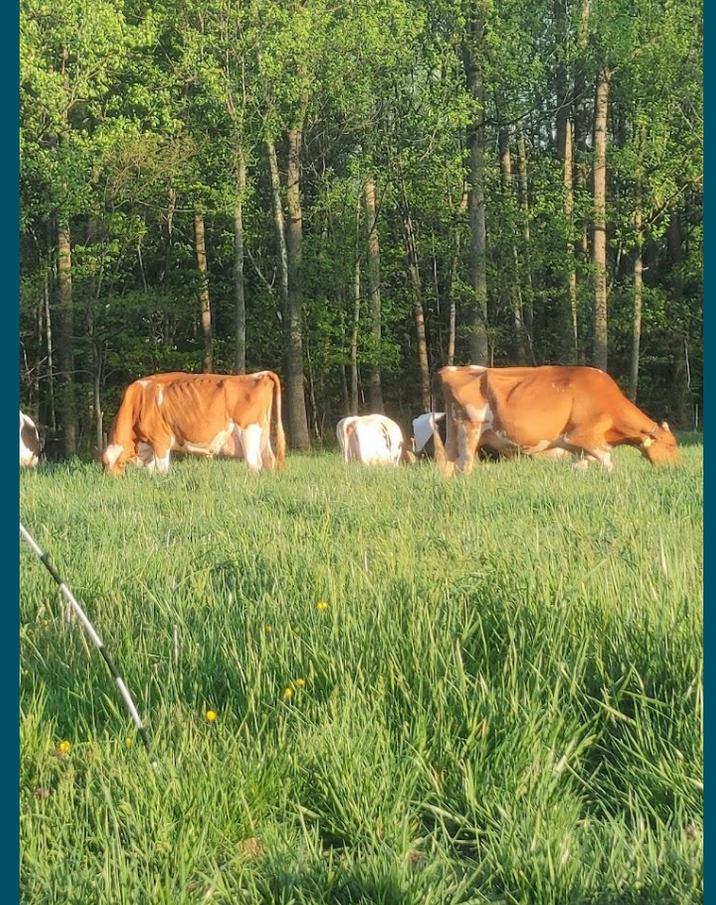
Decide when you want to have another calf. Cows can milk for 6 months to 3 years depending on breed and management.

Gestation is 9 months for cows and 5 months for goats

Artificial or natural service?

Breed for beef or dairy replacement?

Cow should be “dry” for at least 45 days



Thank you

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