



CALF

THE BASICS:

- HEIFER CALF : female that hasn't had a baby
- BULL CALF: Boy calf
- GESTATION PERIOD : 9 months
- BIRTH SIZE : 90 – 120 pounds

THE EXTRAS:

- Cows can have 1 or 2 calves at a time and twins are not uncommon. Either 2 heifer calves or 2 bull calves have normal reproductive capabilities. If one twin is a heifer and one a bull, 90 percent of the time the heifer is sterile.
- It is very important that calves drink their mother's milk for the first 3 days because it contains many antibodies the calf will need for the first 6 months of life.
- After 3 days the calf will be switched to milk replacer and the mother cow will begin to milk at the dairy.
- At 4 weeks calves start solid foods and at 3 months a calf will be weaned from milk completely.
- Both male and female calves will grow horns, however today most farmers will remove the horns at 3 weeks. This is for the safety of the farmer as well as other cows in the pasture.
- A heifer calf is usually bred at 16 months old and 9 months later will give birth and start to give milk.