



# CALF JACKET PROTOCOL

Dairy Spares

Calf jackets keep calves warm, dry and healthy, in the winter when temperatures fall below 15°C. More energy is used to keep warm and less energy on development and growth. Remember, calf jackets do not replace good calf husbandry.

## Influences on lower critical temperature:

- **Genetics of the calf** - A Jersey calf will feel 'cold' before a Charolais calf.
- **Birth conditions** - A premature born calf with a low birth weight will feel the cold sooner.
- **Health** - Poor health will make the calf feel colder, faster.
- **Nutrition** - Good colostrum management will help build a calves' immune system.
- **Air speed** - air speed of less than 1m/s is suitable. A draft through the shed is negative and will promote cold stress.
- **Dry bedding** - Clean dry bedding is essential for calves to keep warm. Damp bedding extracts energy from the calf to keep warm.

## Why buy the Calf Coat:

- Filling - 200gsm.
- Water resistant, rip stop material.
- Machine washable at 30°C.
- Adjustable straps and fasteners with low maintenance.
- Fluorescent strip.

### STANDARD



CC21A - 70cm  
CC21B - 80cm



150gsm  
600 Denier

### PREMIUM



CC21P - 65cm  
CC21L - 75cm



200gsm  
600 Denier  
Fluorescent strip



WHOLESALE TO THE DAIRY FARMING TRADE

Tel: 01948 667676 Fax: 01948 666505 email: sales@dairyspares.com website: www.dairyspares.com





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## Calf jacket protocol:

1. Using a thermometer, monitor and record the min-max temperature in the calf shed and reset every day during the autumn and winter months.
2. Decide on a set trigger temperature for your system, e.g. 10°C.
3. Set protocol at which the calves will start to experience cold stress, e.g. 3 consecutive nights with temperature below 10°C.
4. Young calves (less than 3 weeks of age) are most susceptible to cold stress, therefore assess them first.
5. Only put jackets on dry calves.
6. Place clean jackets on every calf below 1 week of age and on entry to calf shed.
7. Make sure the jackets fits the calf so that it covers the calf's body from neck to tail.
8. Adjust the straps according to growth.



## Removing jackets:

Removal of jackets will be entirely dependent on weather and appetite of each calf.

1. Be aware not to remove jackets too early.
2. Set protocol for removing jackets based on age of calf and ambient temperature:
  - 1 week old > 15°C
  - 2 weeks > 5°C
  - more than 3 weeks > 2°C
3. Refer to recent night-time minimum temperatures.
4. Remember to consider individual calf condition; feed intake, health, growth rate.
5. Remove calf jacket in morning not afternoon.

## Management tips:

1. To preserve body heat ensure calves have enough dry bedding to nest.
2. Monitor jackets for cleanliness and replace soiled or wet jackets with a clean, dry one.
3. Remove dirt from jackets with a hose or light power-wash, if necessary pre-soak.
4. Jackets must be washed at 30°C with detergent and thoroughly dried between each use.

