

For further clarification on accepted animal husbandry practices for cattle, please contact the Vermont Agency of Agriculture's Animal Health Section at (802) 828-2421

If you suspect animal cruelty or neglect please visit:

www.ReportAnimalCruelty.com

Or call
(877) 9-HUMANE



The Vermont Humane Federation's Animal Cruelty Response Coalition

A state-wide network of professionals coordinating Vermont's efforts to prevent and respond to animal cruelty through communication, education, and training.

Members include:

- The VT Humane Federation
- The VT Veterinary Medical Association
- The VT Agency of Agriculture, Food & Markets
- The VT League of Cities & Towns
- The VT Farm Bureau
- The Green Mountain Dairy Farmers Cooperative
- The VT Sheriffs Association
- The VT Police Chiefs Association
- The VT Constables Association
- The VT Animal Control Officers Association
- The VT Agency of Human Services

For more information visit
www.vermonthumane.org

Caring for Cattle



Vermont's Recommendations and Requirements

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Cattle: The Basics

Terminology

Female - Cow

Young female - Heifer

Male - Bull

Young castrated male - Steer

Adult castrated male—Ox

Young animal (either sex) - Calf

Cattle Care

- Fresh, clean water should be available at all times.
- Cattle should have good quality forage or mixed ration available or be able to graze on adequate pasture. Supplemental grain should be provided if needed to meet the additional nutritional demands of lactation, gestation, growth, cold weather, or to compensate for poor forage or pasture quality.
- As a general guideline, consult the National Research Council (NRC) on cattle nutrition. Unless provided for in a mixed or complete ration, a trace mineral lick should be made available. Vermont is a selenium deficient state so special attention should be paid to selenium supplementation, either oral or injectable.
- It is preferable that hay (with the exception of big bales) and grain should not be dumped on the ground, but rather placed in a manger or hay rack, or in the case of grain, in a bucket or other container.
- All feed should be kept dry to avoid mold.

Cattle Care (cont)

Shelter

Vermont law requires that cattle are provided with shelter that protects them. This shelter can be natural or man made. Shelter should provide shade, windbreaks, adequate ventilation and a dry surface to lie down for all animals. Animals should be able to maintain a relative state of cleanliness in their environment.



Additional Recommendations

- Vaccination and de-worming protocols should be developed with a veterinarian.
- Cattle should have their hooves trimmed as needed to avoid lameness and abnormal growth.
- All calves (including dairy bull calves) should receive adequate colostrum (cow's first milk rich in nutrients and antibodies) within 6 hours of birth. Calves have a limited ability to digest hay, grass or forages until after weaning at about 2-3 months of age.
- Castration and de-horning should occur before weaning with a veterinarian's consultation.

Common Concerns

Appearance of Animal

Rough or patchy hair coat, sunken eyes, change in behavior, change in respiration, change in feed or water consumption, nasal and/or ocular discharge, reduced abdominal fill, change in manure consistency, lameness, and inability to rise are all signs that an animal may be ill.

Housing Conditions

Not having a dry place to lie down; no food or water; overcrowding or a strong ammonia odor (not just a manure odor) from a lack of ventilation are not acceptable practices. Insufficient manger space for the number of cattle can result in a competitive situation where the weakest animals can be excluded from the food source.

Behavior

Loud and frequent bellowing from many of the animals in a group may occur when cattle are hungry/thirsty and feed/water has not been provided.

