

How to Create a Classroom Calf Experience

Thank you for wanting to share your farm – and calf – with the students of your local community! This guide walks you through the process of creating a Classroom Calf Experience with a classroom near your dairy farm. It also provides links to resources, including PowerPoint templates, lesson plans for the teachers, and even an email template for you to share with teachers.

The Classroom Calf Experience is designed to help you highlight one calf from your farm and share her growth with the classroom over a span of six months. There are PowerPoint templates for three-month intervals where you can share with the class how she is growing and what her life looks like.

What you'll need to complete this project:

- ◆ A connection with a local classroom, either through the teacher or through a student in the class.
- ◆ A willingness to share photos and information about a calf on your farm, along with her mother and herd mates, to help the students understand what happens on a dairy farm.
- ◆ About 6 - 8 hours every other month to pull together the photos, prepare the PowerPoints, and send the email to the teacher. Additional time could also be involved if you are willing to host a field trip or do a live chat with the classroom at the end of the year.
- ◆ Basic Microsoft Office skills to format PowerPoints and drop in photos to tailor the templates to create your own updates.



Thank you for your help to share dairy farming and agriculture with the future generation in your local community.



Steps to Creating a Classroom Calf Experience

1 Reach Out to a Local Classroom. The best way to do this is by contacting the teacher through a phone call or email. Let them know you want to connect to show students what happens on the farm and where food comes from. Use file labeled “Sample Outreach Email” to reach out and share the benefits of the program.

2 Share Program Timeline with Classroom. Once you have a teacher who is interested in adopting a calf from your farm, make sure you let them know when and what to expect. You’ll have to decide when the best month is to introduce your calf to the classroom and after you introduce her, you’ll want to plan two more updates to share with the classroom, spaced one to two months apart. Let your teacher know when he or she will receive the information about the calf from you and when he or she can expect the other updates. That way he or she can incorporate the updates into her lesson plans. You can use the “Sample Welcome Letter” to prepare this information.

3 Pick Your Calf for the Classroom. Pick a calf from your farm as the adopted calf for the classroom. In choosing the calf, make sure you pick a calf who has gotten off to a good start, has received the appropriate amount of high quality colostrum and vaccinations, and appears healthy.

4 Prepare the First Update about Your Calf. Once you have selected your calf, take photos of your calf and her dam (mom) to share with the classroom. You can also include short videos in the Update, if you want. For tips on gathering video and photos, [click here](#). Use the PowerPoint Update 1 file to drop in your photos and prepare your update. Be sure to read the text closely in the PowerPoint and make sure you customize everything so it is specific to your calf. For instructions on completing the PowerPoint Update 1, [click here](#).

5 Share the First Update with Your Classroom. Once the update is completed, be sure to have another family member or friend read it over to make sure there is nothing that you missed updating. Once you are ready to send it, simply email it to your teacher or put it on a flash drive to drop off at the school. Encourage the teacher to share the PowerPoint with the classroom and ask them what questions the students have. You could answer some of those questions with your next update.

6

Prepare Update Two for the Classroom. About 30 - 45 days after you sent the first update, you'll want to begin preparing the second update. Take photos and videos of your calf, her dam, and her herd-mates to include in the update. If you feel comfortable, take some video footage to share as well. This update talks about vaccinations, the different feeds she eats, and where she is housed, so you'll want to get photos and/or videos of all those things. Follow the instructions for completing Update 2 and customize the Update 2 PowerPoint to your calf. Be sure to delete any slides that do not relate to your calf's experience or how you care for her on your farm.

7

Share the Second Update with Your Classroom. Once again, make sure you have a family member or friend read the update before sending it to catch any errors. Also, review any questions you received from the classroom since you sent Update 1 and consider ways to incorporate them into your Update 2. If they don't fit in the PowerPoint, consider writing an email to the class that answers some of those questions. Either attach your PowerPoint to the email or put it on a flash drive to drop it off.

8

Prepare and Send the Third Update to Your Classroom. Follow the same process to prepare and send Update 3 to the classroom. For instructions on completing Update 3, [click here](#), and to access the Update 3 PowerPoint template, [click here](#). This update covers her diet and housing, as well as ways the farmer takes care of her health and protects her from illness. So make sure you get pictures that relate to those topics. Once it is completed, send your presentation to the teacher through email or on a flash drive.

9

Offer to Host a Tour of Your Farm. If the classroom is nearby, one way to culminate this classroom calf experience is by hosting an on-farm tour for the classroom and possibly other classrooms in the school. If the teacher is open to that, you'll want to think through your plan for hosting the tour. Our Discover Dairy "Farm Tour Guide" page has lots of resources to help you think through that.

10

Host an In Person or Virtual "Meet the Farmer" Session. This can either be done in person or virtually through Zoom or another video conferencing platform. Ask the teacher what would work best for them. If they suggest virtual, ask them to set it up for you. If it is in person, offer to visit the classroom. Consider taking the calf with you if it is not too big. If it doesn't work to take the calf, just visit the classroom and take examples of things you use to care for the calf, like bottles, buckets, eartags, and other items.

Resources to Create a Classroom Calf Experience

For help in creating a Classroom Calf Experience, the Discover Dairy Team has built out a library of resources. Those include PowerPoint Templates for each of the updates, as well as instructions for completing those PowerPoints, and sample outreach, welcome and thank you letters. Click on the links below to access these resources and more to aid in hosting your very own “Classroom Calf Experience.”

- **Sample Outreach Letter/Email**
- **Sample Welcome Letter/Email with Program Timeline**
- **Update 1 PowerPoint Template**
- **Instructions for Customizing Update 1**
- **Update 2 PowerPoint Template**
- **Instructions for Customizing Update 2**
- **Update 3 PowerPoint Template**
- **Instructions for Customizing Update 3**
- **Tips for Gathering Photos and Videos**

TIPS!

By opening up your farm and sharing one of your calves with a local classroom, you are helping teach more students about where their food comes from and what dairy farmers do to take good care of their animals. Here are some tips.



Keep it interactive. Encourage the teacher to share the students’ questions with you and answer them as you receive them.



Share stories from your farm. Is there something funny about what the calf is named? Does she have an unusual activity she does like twirling her tongue? Think of ways to capture the children’s imagination and help them connect with the calf.



Encourage the teacher to use Discover Dairy in the classroom. The lesson series is filled with STEM-based lessons about the farm, and tie in perfectly with the Classroom Calf Experience.

Dear [School or Teacher name],

My name is [Name] and I am a dairy farmer in [town name]. As a local dairy farmer and member of the community, I'd like to offer you and your students the opportunity to connect with our farm through the Classroom Cow Program we provide for free. This program allows students from kindergarten through middle school to learn about the dairy industry by following the journey of one of our new born calves this year through photos and videos we share with you.

I would love to share my farm and cows with your students through this program. For this program, I would send you PowerPoints, highlighting one of the calves on our farm so that your students can watch them grow. We will send three updates from November to March so that the students can see how the calf matures as it becomes a producing cow. I can also provide premade lesson plans that follow Common CORE standards that accompany each update. These lessons are provided by Discover Dairy.

Discover Dairy is a cross-curricular, educational series that meets Common CORE Standards for Math, Science and Reading, teaching students where their milk comes from and how dairy farmers contribute to our world. You can find out more about them at <https://www.discoverdairy.com/>

At the end of the school year, we can discuss the opportunity to either virtually visit our farm or schedule a real farm tour to bring the learning experience full circle!

Please let me know if you would be open to learning more about this opportunity to bring dairy into your classroom! I have attached a one-page summary of the program. You can reach me at this email or at my phone number [phone number].

Thank you and I look forward to hearing your response!

Sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your farm name]

Classroom Calf Experience

Welcome, _____

The Classroom Calf Experience is an immersive learning experience for students in kindergarten through middle school. This program allows your students to learn about dairy by watching their very own classroom calf grow and learn about dairy farms from a local dairy farmer.

What's included in the Classroom Cow Program?

- 3 PowerPoint updates about the calf
- 3 lessons to go with the updates
- Additional FREE dairy resources
- Virtual or in-person tour of the farm



How it Works



1. Farmer _____ will provide all of the calf photos and information throughout the year. Dates you'll receive Updates:
 - * Update 1: _____
 - * Update 2: _____
 - * Update 3: _____
2. Share the information with your students and try the lessons that go with the updates.
3. Work with Farmer _____ to schedule a virtual farm tour or an in-person farm tour if they allow it.
4. Have Fun!



Hi, I'm [insert calf name]!



[Insert farm name]
The [insert last name] Family

[Give a background on your farm's history. When it was established, how many cows you have, etc.]



About the Farm



Name:
Birthdate:
Sire:
Dam:
Height:
Weight:
Breed:



Meet the Calf

1



Within a few hours after birth, [insert calf name] drinks colostrum and takes her first few steps in life. Colostrum is vital to jump starting [insert calf name]'s immune system.

2



Naval Dip

[Insert calf name]'s naval is dipped with iodine to protect her from getting an infection.

3

[Insert calf name] also always has fresh water to drink.



Automatic Waterer

1



Within a few hours after birth, [insert calf name] drinks colostrum and takes her first few steps in life. Colostrum is vital to jump starting [insert calf name]'s immune system.

2



Naval Dip

[Insert calf name]'s naval is dipped with iodine to protect her from getting an infection.

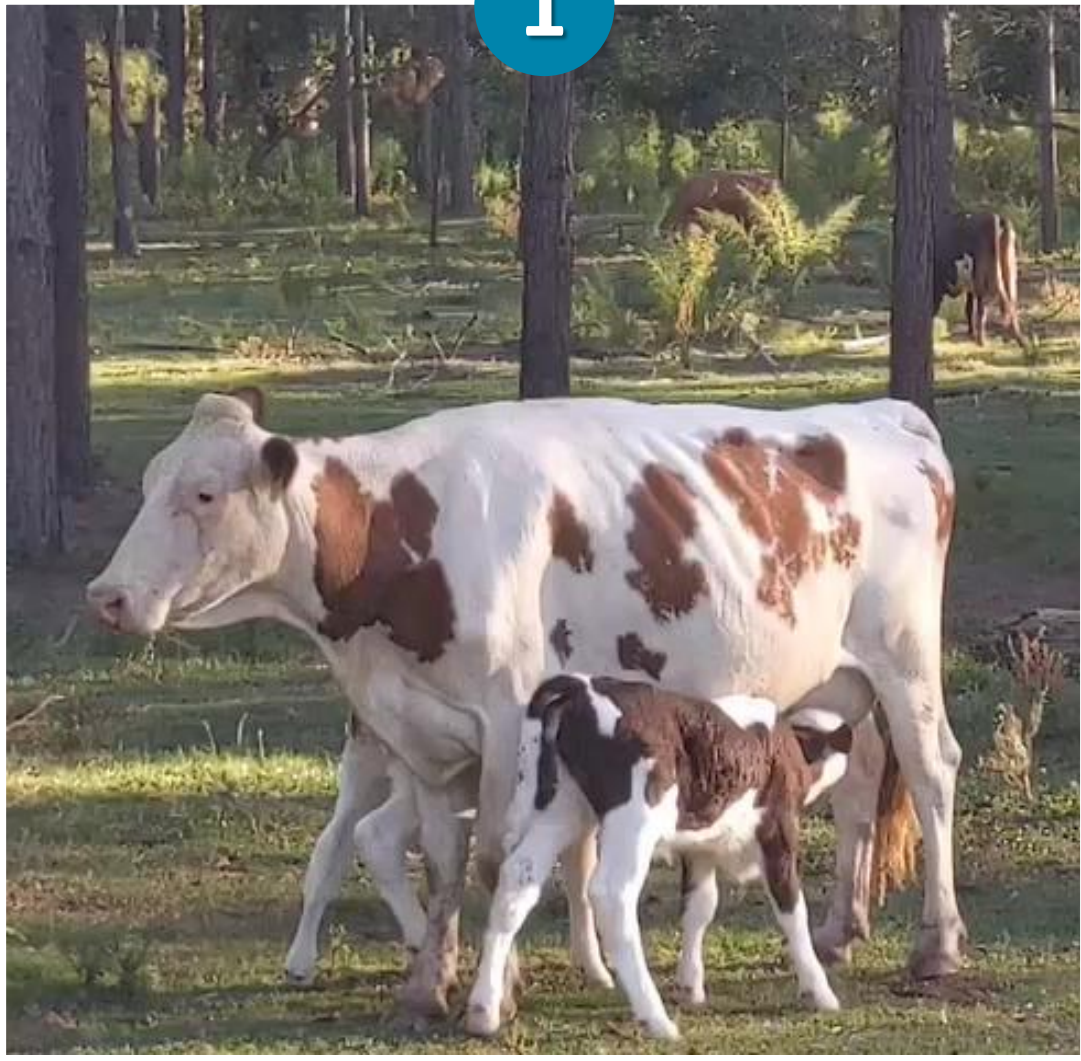
3

Water Bucket

[Insert calf name] also always has fresh water to drink.



1



Within a few hours after birth, [insert calf name] drinks colostrum from her mother, which is the first bit of milk that a mother cow produces after giving birth. She will also take her first few steps in life just an hour after birth.

2



Naval Dip

[Insert calf name]'s naval is dipped with iodine to protect her from getting an infection.

1



2



3





[Insert calf name] lives with other calves her age in group housing where she gets to meet her new herdmates.



[Insert calf name]'s bed gets fresh shavings weekly. Shavings keep [insert calf name] clean and warm.



Animal Care - Housing



[Insert calf name] lives in her own calf hutch for the first 12 weeks after birth. This allows her to build a strong immune system before joining the herd.



[Insert calf name]'s bed gets fresh straw bedding weekly. Straw keeps [insert calf name] clean and warm.



Animal Care - Housing



[Insert calf name] lives with her dam and other herdmates on pasture. Here they have a barn they can sleep in for shelter and have access to water and hay for hydration and nutrition.



[Insert calf name]'s bed gets straw weekly. Straw keeps [insert calf name] clean and warm.



Animal Care - Housing



[Insert calf name] loves being happy and healthy!



[Farm name] uses **dehorning** paste that is rubbed on at the buds of the horn to prevent horn growth for the safety of the other animals and humans.



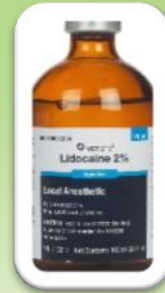
[Insert calf name] is given an **Ear Tag** at birth for identification, just like this one. Her herd number is ____ . This is just like humans getting their ears pierced.



Animal Care - Maintenance



[Insert calf name] loves being happy and healthy!



[Farm name] **disbuds** horns using lidocaine (a pain reliever) and an iron to prevent horn growth for the safety of the other animals and humans.



[Insert calf name] is given an **Ear Tag** at birth for identification, just like this one. Her herd number is ____ . This is just like humans getting their ears pierced.



Animal Care - Maintenance



[Insert calf name] loves being happy and healthy!



At [Farm name], most of their cows are polled. Polled means the calves are born without horns. This is something they can breed for so they don't have to go through the dehorning process.



[Insert calf name] is given an Ear Tag at birth for identification, just like this one. Her herd number is ____ . This is just like humans getting their ears pierced.



Animal Care - Maintenance



Mother's Name:

Age:

Height:

Weight:

[Dam name] produces 80 pounds or 10 gallons of milk everyday!

[Dam's name]'s job on the farm is to produce high quality milk for the [your last name] family to sell so it can be made into fluid milk and other dairy products for you to consume.

What are your favorite dairy products?

Hi, I'm [dam's name]. I'm [insert calf name]'s mother!



Meet [insert calf name]'s Mom



[Dam's name] has a comfy bed that are filled with soft sand. The milking cows are fed TMR or a Total Mixed Ration, which is like a balanced cow salad!



The barn has giant fans that keep the cows cool in the summertime. It also has a cool rotating brush that turns on when cows walk under it! The best way to scratch an itch!

This is the Free Stall Barn where [Dam's name] and her herdmates live.



Cow Comfort



[Dam name] and her herdmates live outside all day. Throughout the day, they enjoy finding the perfect forages to munch on and graze.



In addition to grazing the fields, [dam name] and her herdmates are fed hay, which provides additional fiber and nutrition in their diets.

[Dam name] and her herdmates live outside all day. Throughout the day, they enjoy finding the perfect forages to munch on and graze.



Cow Comfort



This is the Tie Stall Barn where [Dam name] and her herdmates live.



[Dam name] has everything she needs in her barn including fresh food, fresh water, tunnel ventilation (fresh air) and a comfy bed!



[Dam name]'s sleeps on shavings in her individual stall. This keeps her space very comfy and clean to lay in.



This is the Pack Barn where [Dam Name] and her herdmates can go for shelter and shade.



The barn is connected to the wide-open fields of [Farm Name] where [Dam Name] can graze all day and enjoy the sun.



The milking cows are fed TMR or a Total Mixed Ration, which is like a balanced cow salad!



Cow Comfort



Hi, I'm [Insert Calf Name]!



[Insert Farm Name]

The [Insert Last Name] Family

97% of dairy farms across the country are family owned and operated just like [Farm name]. Dairy farming is a family affair, with a lot of love, hard work and perseverance put in to take good care of their cows. [Insert calf name] is well loved by them all!



Update 1 PowerPoint:

Click the picture icon to add a picture from your file. Where you see [Insert ___ name], remove the bracket and text and replace it with specified text.

Slide 1 (Meet [calf name]): Add the calf's name wherever you see [insert calf name]. Follow the directions on the screen and add a picture of the calf and a picture of your family in the corresponding areas.

Slide 2 (About the Farm): Add a picture of yourself or your family and a picture of your farm. In the text box, write about your farm (when it was established, type of dairy farm, how many cows you milk, etc.)

Slide 3 (Meet the Calf): Add a picture of the calf's full body and fill in the calf's information for name, birthdate, sire, dam, height, weight, and breed.

Slide 4, 5, 6,7 (Her First Moments): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are three different options to choose from – Automatic Water, Buckets, and cow-calf operations. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other two. You do not need to add additional information to the slide you choose.

Slide 8, 9, & 10 (Animal Care-Housing): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are three different options to choose from – group housing with shavings, calf hutches with straw, and cow-calf operations. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other two. Insert a picture of the calf in their housing on the left and insert a close-up picture of your bedding type on the right.

Slide 11, 12, & 13(Animal Care-Maintenance): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are three different options to choose from – polled, dehorning paste, and burning. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other two. Insert a new picture of the calf where it says, "Click icon to add picture". Add your farm name in the dehorning caption and the calf's ear tag number in the tagging caption. When inserting photos for dehorning and tagging, be sure to include photos that are consumer friendly. We do not recommend showing the actual dehorning process. The ear tag photo should just be a close up photo of the calf's ear tag in her ear.

Slide 14 (Meet [calf]'s Mom): Add a photo of the dam and insert the dam's name. Add her age, height, weight, and how much she produces, if different than the provided information. If your farm does not ship to a fluid milk processor, change the information to say where you do ship to.

Slide 15,16, 17, & 18 (Cow Comfort): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are four different options to choose from – Free Stall, Grazing, Tie Stall, and Grazing + Pack Barn. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other two. Insert a photo of your barn/ cows and insert

the dam and farm names as needed. Be sure to cover the three main topics: housing, bedding, and food/water sources.

Slide 19 (Outro): Add another picture of the calf's face and a picture of your family above the appropriate captions. Replace the calf's name, your farm name, and your last name. Keep the paragraph at the bottom the same.

Slide 20 (Aerial Photo): Add an aerial photo of your farm photo, or a photo that shows most of the farm landscape. Add your farm name at the top.

Congrats! You just finished your calf's first update PowerPoint!

Check your work: Don't forget to change the words inside of [Brackets]!



Hi kids, it's good to see you again!

Time to Check in on [insert calf name]!



Name:

Birthdate:



Updated Information

Age:

3 Month Height:

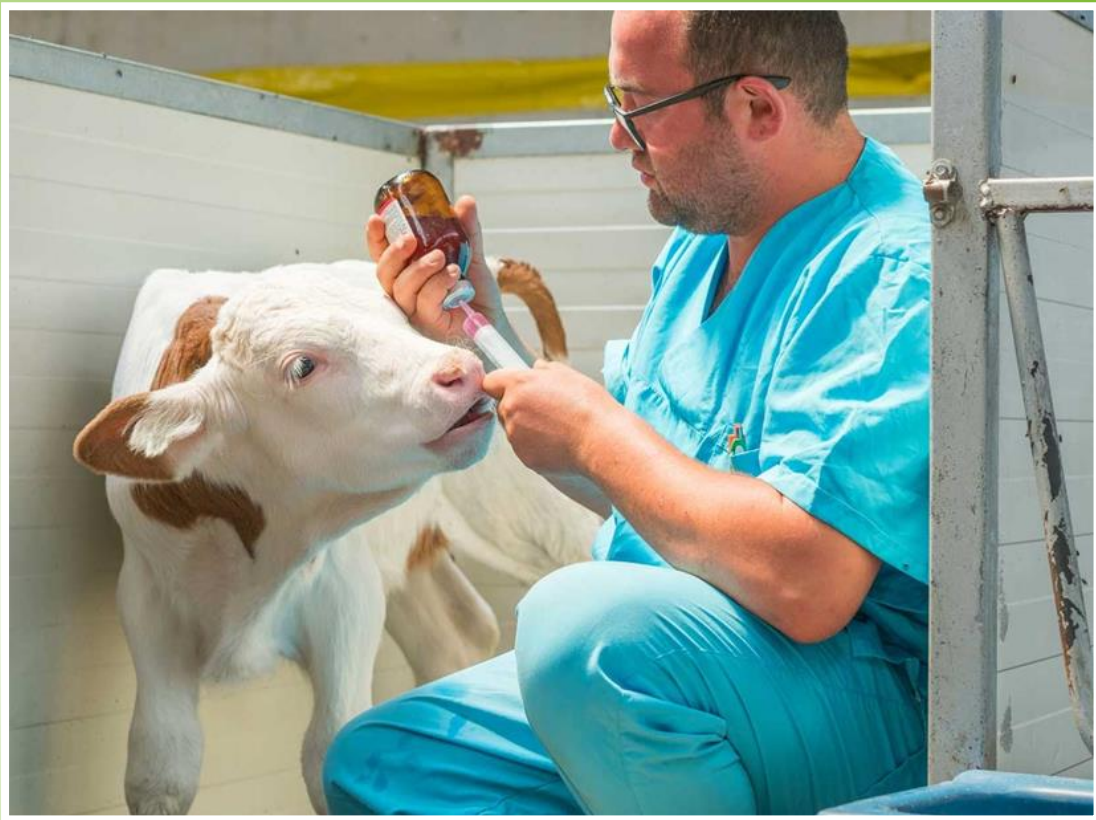
3 Month Weight:



Calf Update

[Insert calf name]'s Health is Important

Proactive daily care is key to keeping Adele and her herd mates happy and healthy!



Vaccinations

[Insert calf name] was vaccinated at 3 months old to protect her from getting harmful diseases.



[Calf name] enjoys a sweet grain pellet mix which gives her a lot of energy and helps her digestive system develop.



Hay is added to [calf name]'s diet because it is a high fiber food which is perfect for her growth and diet. She gets to eat as much hay and drink as much water as she wants!

[Insert calf name]'s New Diet

Now that [calf name] is older, she gets to eat foods that have more fiber to help develop the different compartments in her stomach.





[Insert calf name]'s New Diet

Now that [calf name] is older, she gets to eat foods that have more fiber to help develop the different compartments in her stomach.



[Calf name] enjoys a calf starter grain which gives her a lot of energy and helps her digestive system develop.



Hay is added to [calf name]'s diet because it is a high fiber food which is perfect for her growth and diet. Her and her friends eat as much hay and drink as much water as they want!



[Insert calf name]'s New Diet

Now that [calf name] is older, she gets to eat foods that have more fiber to help develop the different compartments in her stomach.



[Calf name] enjoys a corn and soybean mix with vitamins and minerals which gives her energy and helps her digestive system develop.



Hay is added to [calf name]'s diet because it is a high fiber food which is perfect for her growth and diet. She gets to eat as much hay and drink as much water as she wants!



Group Housing

[Calf name] now lives with a few of her herd mates in a new group pen. She loves hanging out with her new buddies!



[Calf name] sleeps on straw bedding which helps to keep her clean, dry, and very warm!



[Calf name] and her friends live together because it is easier to monitor growth, feed intake, and see signs of sickness.

Hutches

[Calf name] is finishing up her time in her individual hutch and will be moving to group housing soon!

[Calf name]'s hutch is bedded with cozy straw. Straw is an excellent insulator and helps keep her warm and clean.

[Calf name] loves her cozy hutch. Each hutch has plenty of protection from the weather and room to play!



Individual Pens

[Calf name] still lives in her pen but soon she will move into a larger pen with 4-5 of her friends!



[Calf name]'s pen is very soft! It has straw that is very comfy to lay on and keeps her warm and dry.



[Calf name] is very excited to live with her friends soon but for now she likes having her own room!



Pasture Living

[Calf name] lives with her other herd mates in an open pasture. For protection, she has a sheltered area that she can go to if she wants.



Living on the pasture provides plenty of soft places for [calf name] to sleep and play all day.

In the summer, there are trees that provide shade and fresh green grass to nibble on.



Housing



[Dam name]

[Dam name] produced more than 20,000 pounds of milk last year! Go [dam name]!

[Dam] was bred artificially to become pregnant and have another calf. Once confirmed pregnant at 60 days, she will be milked for 5 more months and then go on vacation for 2 months. [Calf name] is going to have a little brother or sister soon!

Do you have siblings?

What are their names?

Hey Kids! Thanks for adopting my calf [calf name]!



[Dam name] Update



Look how BIG [calf name] has grown! At just 3 months old, she is as tall as a 2nd grader!

Update 2 PowerPoint:

Click the picture icon to add a picture from your file. Where you see [insert ____ name], remove the bracket and text and replace it with the specified text.

Slide 1 (Intro Slide): Add the calf's name wherever you see [calf name]. Follow the directions in the notes section under the slide and add a picture or video of the calf in the designated area.

Slide 2 (Calf Update): Add the calf's name and birthday at the top of the screen. Update two is three months after update one, therefore give the calf's three-month height and weight and show pictures of the calf at three months old.

Slide 3 (Health): Add the calf's name and insert a picture or video to show she is happy and healthy. If she was not vaccinated at 3 months old, change it to when she was. Vaccinations are hard to get a picture of, if you would like to include your own photo be make sure that it is a consumer-friendly picture. Feel free to keep the generic photo of the process.

Slide 4, 5, & 6 (Diet): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are three different options to choose from – sweet grain pellet mix, calf starter, and corn and soybean mix. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other two slides. Insert a picture of the calf eating, a close-up picture of the feed itself, and a picture of her drinking water or eating hay.

Slide 7,8,9, & 10 (Housing): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are four different options to choose from – group housing, calf hutches, individual pens, and pasture living. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other two slides. Insert two pictures of the calf in her housings or with her herd mates and a picture of her bedding.

Slide 11 (Dam Update): Add a picture or video of the dam and insert her name where the brackets are. The pounds produced and pregnancy updates are generalized, feel free to add any specifics to the information if you would like to. Don't forget to add the dam's name to the slide title on the bottom right of the slide.

Slide 12 (Closing Slide): Add a picture or a video to the slide and add the calf's name.

Slide 13 (Aerial Photo): (Same as update 1) Add an aerial photo of your farm photo, or a photo that shows most of the farm landscape. Add your farm name at the top.

Congrats! You just finished your calf's second update PowerPoint!

Check your work: Don't forget to change the words inside of [Brackets]!



I have missed you all so much!

It's Our Last Check Up with
[Calf name]



Name:

Birthdate:

Updated Information

Age:

Height:

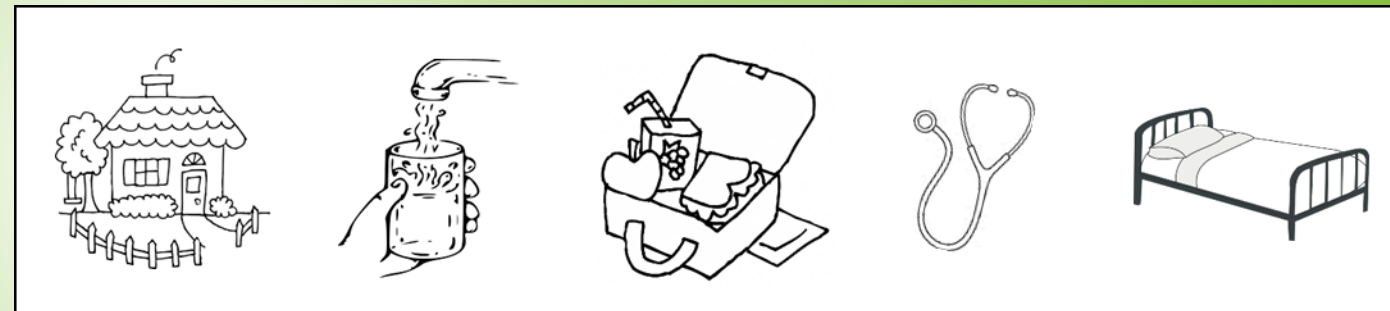
Weight:



Calf Update

[Calf name]'s Health and Protection Is Key

Farmer [your name] has done everything she can to protect and provide for [calf name] since birth. Can you remember 5 things [your name] did for [calf name] to keep her healthy and strong?



Let's Compare

How do your parents or guardians protect you from getting hurt or sick? Compare what Farmer [your name] does for [calf name] to what humans do for their children.



Housing

[Calf name] now lives with many herdmates in a dry lot with shelter. She will live here until she is a prefresh cow.



Diet

Though her grain looks the same, [calf name] now eats a new pellet grain that continues to help develop her four stomach compartments.

[Calf name] still eats hay everyday – 10 to 12 pounds per day!



Diet and Housing

Housing

[Calf name] now lives with many herdmates on pasture. She will live here until she is a prefresh COW.

[Calf name] eats heifer grain, which continues to help develop her four stomach compartments.

[Calf name] still eats hay everyday – 10 to 12 pounds per day! She also gets to munch on all the grass she wants!



Diet and Housing

Housing

[Calf name] now lives with many herdmates in the heifer barn. She will live here until she is a prefresh cow.

[Calf name] now eats heifer TMR, this is made of corn silage, haylage, and custom mineral mix that continues to help develop her four stomach compartments.

[Calf name] still eats hay everyday – 10 to 12 pounds per day!



Diet and Housing



[Dam's Name]

[Dam's name] is due to have her next baby in the fall!

Click on the ultrasound video below to see how veterinarians "preg. check" the cows!



Great to see you again kids!



[Dam name]'s Update



Pre-Fresh Pen

About 1 month before [calf name] is due to have her baby (around 2 years old), she will be moved inside to a freshly bedded pen with a new TMR ration formulated perfectly for her diet needs.

Having A Baby

Once [calf name] is 2 weeks away from her due date, she is moved again to a private pen so Farmer [your name] can keep a close eye on her, preparing for her to have her calf.

After she gives birth, the cycle of life starts all over again for her calf, and [calf name] finally joins the milking herd to become a productive member of [farm name]!



[Calf's name]'s Future



Life As A Milking Cow

In “adulthood” as a milking cow, [calf name] will be milked twice a day in the milking parlor. The milking processes only takes 5 to 10 minutes.

From Cow to You

After [calf name] is milked, the milk travels through clean pipes and is stored in the bulk tank to be kept cold until the milk truck picks up the milk.

The milk truck will take the milk to the processing plant to be pasteurized and get it ready to drink! From the plant, the milk will get sent to grocery stores, schools, restaurants, and more where people can enjoy it!



[Calf's name]'s Future



Life As A Milking Cow

In “adulthood” as a milking cow, [calf name] will be milked twice a day with stanchion milking units. The milking processes only takes 5 to 10 minutes.

From Cow to You

After [calf name] is milked, the milk travels through clean pipes and is stored in the bulk tank to be kept cold until the milk truck picks up the milk.

The milk truck will take the milk to the processing plant to be pasteurized and get it ready to drink! From the plant, the milk will get sent to grocery stores, schools, restaurants, and more where people can enjoy it!



[Calf's name]'s Future

[Farm name] Fun

The [your last name] family is a family just like yours. They have siblings, parents, grandparents, cousins, pets and more! They celebrate holidays together, go to school and eat dinner just like you. Just think, maybe one day, you will be a dairy famer!

Dairy Farmers and their families are important to our community, economy, country and world.



[Calf name] is turning out to be a beautiful young heifer! Thank you for loving her!

Thanks for letting [calf name] join
your class. Let's do this again next
year!

Update 3 PowerPoint:

Click the picture icon to add a picture from your file. Where you see [insert ____ name], remove the bracket and text and replace it with the specified text.

Slide 1 (Intro Slide): Add the calf's name wherever you see [calf name]. Follow the directions in the notes section under the slide and add a picture or video of the calf in the designated area.

Slide 2 (Calf Update): Add the calf's name and birthday at the top of the screen. Update two is three months after update two, therefore give the calf's six-month height and weight and show pictures of the calf at six months old.

Slide 3 (Health & Protection): Add the calf's name and insert a picture or video to show she is happy and healthy. Don't forget to replace the brackets of text with your name and the calf's name.

Slide 4, 5, & 6 (Diet & Housing): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are three different options to choose from – dry lot with shelter and heifer grain, pasture and heifer grain, and a heifer barn and heifer TMR. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other two slides. Feel free to change the information as it best suites your farm. Add a picture of the calf's housing on the left and two photos of its diet on the right.

Slide 7 (Dam's Update): Insert a picture or a video of the dam and change the bracketed text to her name. If you have your own ultrasound you would like to include, feel free.

Slide 8 (Calf's Future): Add a picture of your pre-fresh pen on the left and a picture of a cow having a calf or with a newborn calf on the right. Change any of the wording so that it better fits your farm.

Slide 9, & 10 (Calf's Future pt. 2): **CHOOSE A SLIDE**: There are two different options to choose from – milking parlor and stanchion milkers. Choose the slide that best represents your farm and delete the other slide. Insert a picture of the cow being milked on the left and one of your bulk tank or milk truck on the right.

Slide 11 (Farm Fun): Use this slide to share your family and other animals or pets on the farm. Adjust the paragraph to include who is in your photos.

Slide 12 (Closing Slide): Add a picture or a video to the slide and add the calf's name.

Slide 13 (Arial Photo): Add a picture of your family and your farm's name.

Congrats! You just finished your calf's third and final update PowerPoint!

Check your work: Don't forget to change the words inside of [Brackets]!

Picture and Video Tips

Classroom Cow Kit

Taking pictures and videos of calves can be hard work, especially when they don't want to cooperate! Here are some tips and suggestions to help!

Video Tips



- Using videos is not required, however they are useful to explain a part of your farm, or a certain process more in-depth.
- Videos also can bring your calf to life for the students! Seeing a picture of the calf versus seeing a video of it running around provides a better experience.
- When recording videos, be sure to go into more detail than what the captions on the PowerPoint already say. It can be helpful to explain the why of a topic or process, such as why Pearl is outside.
- This video is a great example of explaining Pearl's pen more in depth.
- Talking in videos is optional, sometimes just showing the pen or barn can be just as useful!

Video Tips



- When shooting the video footage, hold the phone horizontally, or sideways.
- Don't record with your phone vertical, it is hard to put a video like that on PowerPoint because it is an awkward shape.
- Use a microphone or a noise cancelling headset to record, when possible, so there is less white noise in the background.
- Move slowly when videoing. Quick movements appear blurry on a computer screen.

Picture Tips



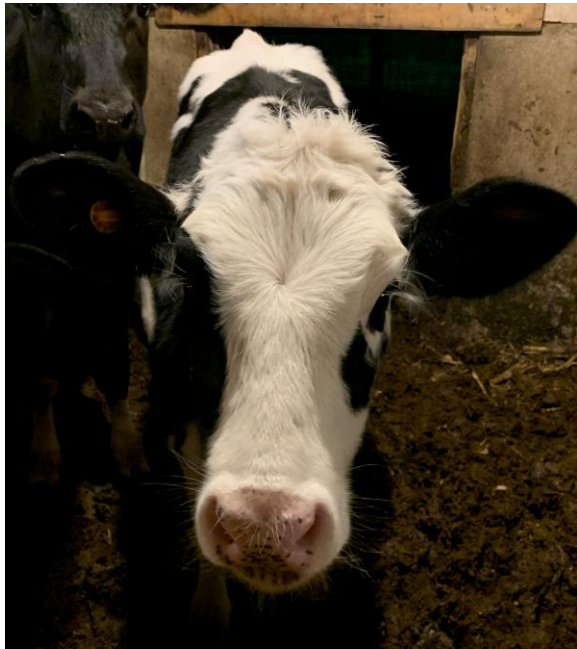
- Try to get some pictures of the calf's full body so that the kids can see just how big she is.
- Don't worry if you don't have a professional camera, phone pictures come out just as nice!
- Get down on the calf's level to take the picture (don't stand above them)
- Include good headshots and body shots of both sides to see all her markings



This photo is taken from above – see how we can't see her face or her body well?



Picture Tips



What's wrong with this photo?

- Taken at night
- Flash caused shadows
- Dirty walls and muddy pen

- Don't use the flash on your phone, it distorts the color
- Take photos during the day, not at night when it is dark
- If it is dark in the calf's pen take it out to take pictures
- Be aware of the photo's backgrounds, avoid manure piles and dirty walls
- Brush the calf off before photos to freshen her up



What's good about this photo?

- Taken during the day
- No flash
- Clean background

Tips and Suggestions



Be sure to take a picture or video of the calf's food and of them eating

Tips and Suggestions



Try to get the calf being goofy! The kids love to see them running around or with their tongue on their nose!

Tips and Suggestions

Classroom Cow Kit - Picture and Video Tips - Saved to this PC

File Home Insert Draw Design Transitions Animations Slide Show Review View Help **Picture Format**

Remove Background Corrections Color Artistic Effects Transparency Adjust

Compress Pictures Change Picture Reset Picture

Picture Styles

1 **Picture and Video Tips**
Classroom Cow Kit
Taking pictures and videos of calves can be hard work, especially when they don't want to cooperate. Here are some tips and suggestions to help!

2 **Video Tips**
When shooting the video, hold the phone steady.
This is a good example of a video that shows the calves in a natural setting. It's important to get a good shot of the calves in their natural habitat.
Videos aren't necessarily that they are useful if they are in a corner part of your farm. You want to make sure they are in the center.

3 **Video Tips**
This is an example of a video shot up on and down on a video.
It is hard to put a video like this into the PowerPoint because it is an example of a video.
However, this is another good example of capturing the first steps in depth.
Taking in video is optional, sometimes just showing the part of the farm that you want to show.

Picture

- Try to get some picture of a calf's full body so that you can see just how big
- Don't worry if you don't have a professional camera, pictures come out just fine

Compress your pictures to make the file smaller

- Sending large files can be hard, compress the pictures to make them smaller
- Click on the compress pictures under the picture format tab

Compress Pictures

Compression options:

- Apply only to this picture
- Delete cropped areas of pictures

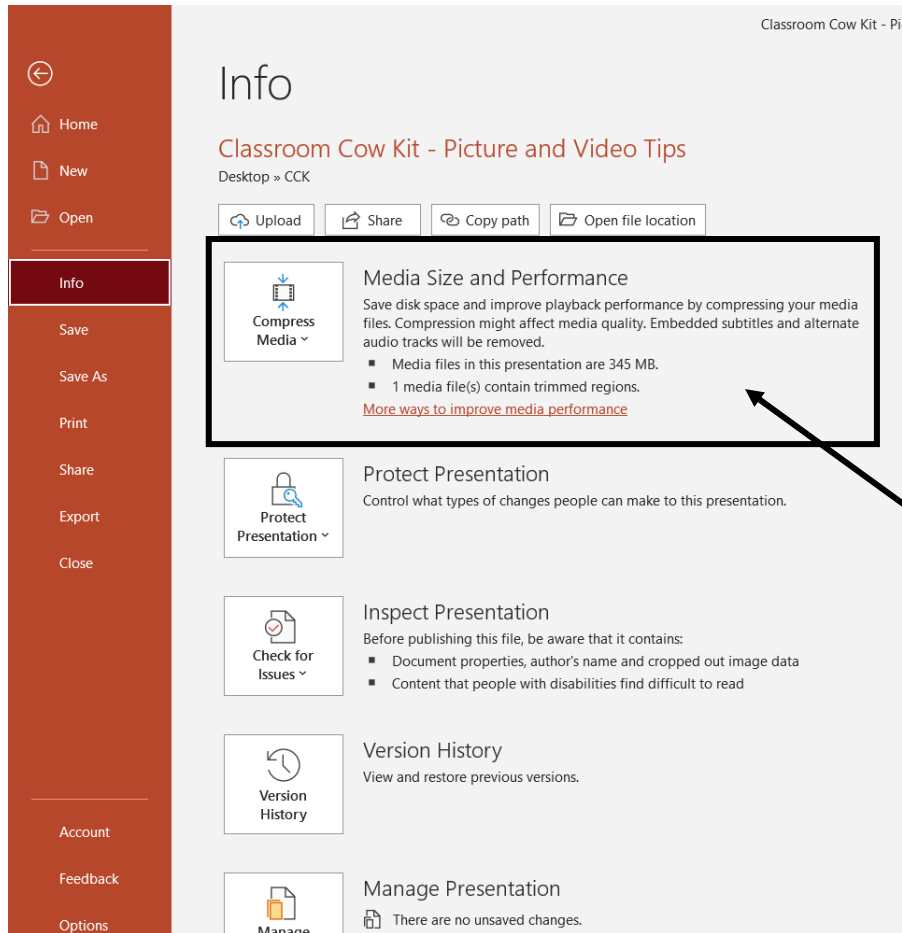
Resolution:

- High fidelity: preserves quality of the original picture
- HD (330 ppi): good quality for high-definition (HD) displays
- Print (220 ppi): excellent quality on most printers and screens
- Web (150 ppi): good for web pages and projectors
- E-mail (96 ppi): minimize document size for sharing
- Use default resolution

OK Cancel

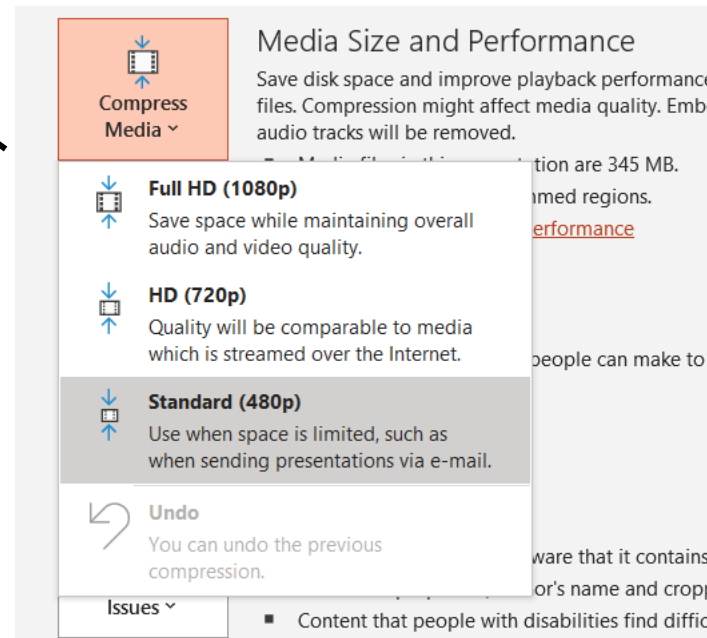
- Unselect "Apply to this picture only"
- Select "Print"
- Click OK

Tips and Suggestions



Compress your videos to make the file smaller

- Sending large files can be hard, compress the videos to make them smaller
- Click on file, info, and then select “compress media”



- Select “HD (720p)”
- Click OK when done

That's All Folks!

Are you ready to channel your inner Ansel Adams or Steven Spielberg?

Remember!

- Always be aware of your surroundings...if you wouldn't want it in a newspaper, you shouldn't include it in your PowerPoint.
- Make sure your photos aren't blurry.
- To make sure the calf looks the best, only photograph or video in daylight
 - If the calf's pen is dark take it outside

You've got this, good luck!