



KEEPING A FAMILY MILK COW

A VACATIONER'S GUIDE

TYLER STRUB

DILIGENT HANDS FARM

INDIANOLA, IA



BUT DON'T YOU HAVE TO MILK TWICE A DAY?

Calf sharing = VACATION



WHAT IS CALF SHARING?

Traditional Dairy

- Ween calf at 2-days to 8-weeks, sell calf off, or use nurse cows
- Milk twice a day at exact same time

Calf Sharing

- Keep calf with cow during the day
- Separate calf from cow at night
- Milk once a day
- Keep calf with cow all day/night when on VACATION
- Let cow ween calf or when drying up cow to prepare for new calf



PROS & CONS OF CALF SHARING

Pros

- Still get a lot of milk
- Save money on milk replacer ((2) 50# bags @ \$90/bag = \$180)
- Don't have to bottle feed calves
- Less chance of mastitis
- Healthy calves
- You can go on VACATION

Cons

- Less milk production for your family
- More labor intensive
- May take time to build production back up after a VACATION

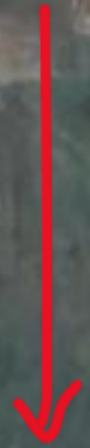


TYPICAL ROUTINE

- 6:15 a.m. – milk cow, give 4 pounds of feed
- 6:45 a.m. – release cow into paddock, let calf into paddock
- 6:50 a.m. – adjust electric poly braid fencing to open up calf's paddock to cow (rotationally grazing)
- 7:00 a.m. – finishing cleaning milking equipment
- 4:00 p.m. – give 4 pounds of feed to cow, separate calf into fresh paddock (~10' wide)
- REPEAT



COW
CALF



pofi



COMMENTS/QUESTIONS?