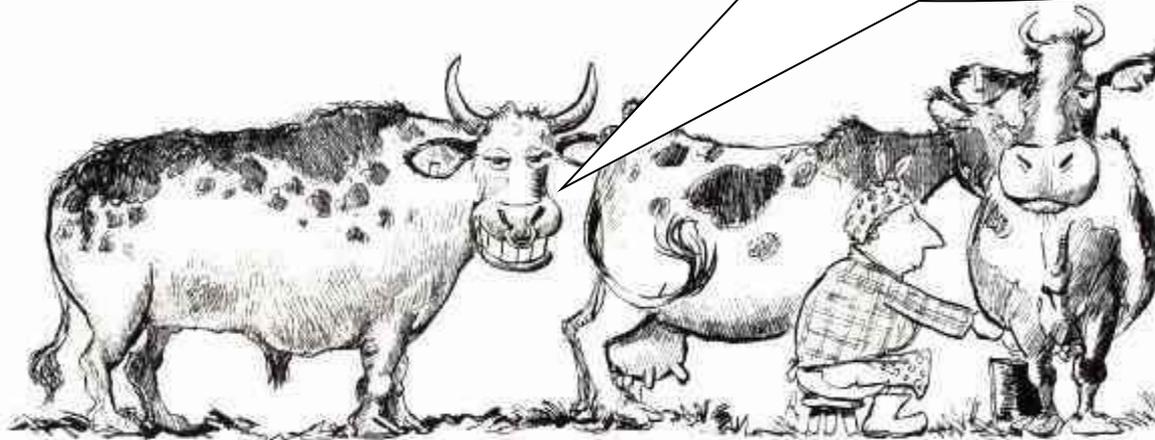




# Korakonui School Agricultural Day

A Student Information Guide.





# The Basics!



## **Please Note:**

***A Animal Status Declaration Certificate must accompany each calf.***

## **GET TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR CALF**

Find out all you can about your calf. The name and pedigree of its parents, its birthday, breeding, food quantities and types on which it has been fed and how you have prevented diseases – all these help you gain better knowledge and understanding of your calf.

## **CALF REARING INFORMATION**

### **CHOOSING YOUR CALF**

The calf should be chosen not later than fourteen days after birth. It is preferable to select one that has a clean fine skin, comes from good parentage, as it is likely to inherit some of the parents good qualities.

### **LOOKING AFTER YOUR CALF**

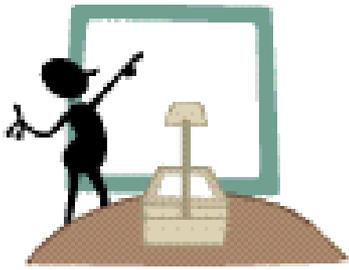
Once the calf is chosen, the child should take over the responsibility for the care and feeding of it.

Only when this takes place will the calf become a real pet and accept training. Food mixtures are important enabling the calf to grow into a healthy well reared animal.

For the first 2 or 3 days of its life it should be fed on the colostrums milk of its mother.

### **FEEDING HINTS**

- 1: The child should always feed the calf.  
Leading and handling at feeding times rapidly develops a friendship between animal and child.
- 2: The temperature of the milk is important.  
Do not allow it to cool down.
- 3: Do not overfeed. Scouring can result.
- 4: Make the feeding time grooming time.  
Always talk to your calf in a friendly way when feeding.



# Calf Care



## CALF COVER:

An adequate cover for your calf is easily made from a clean sack.

The cover benefits the calf by keeping it warm during the cold weather.

Remember to remove the cover on hot days.

The cover also helps to loosen and remove winter hair, keeping the calf's coat fine and free from lice.

An occasional wash will keep the cover clean.

## GROOMING THE CALF

Regular brushing maintains a clean coat and healthy skin. Commence when it is 3 weeks old by rubbing over the calf's body with your hands while it is drinking. At the first sign of loose hair, brushing should commence. Two brushes, NOT nylon, are preferable, one semi-stiff and the other soft. Additional useful equipment:- comb or curry comb

**Never pluck or trim the calf. NO clipping allowed.**

On the Sunday before show day, wash your calf in fine calm weather. May be necessary. Use luke warm water to which has been added a mild soap or shampoo. Wash all over being careful to keep soapy water out of its eyes. Remember to wash thoroughly the hooves, ears and under the chin where dried milk is likely to stick. After this wash, one thorough rinse with clean like warm water should be given. In a sheltered sunny spot, rub dry with towels and brush the coat to restore the hair to its correct direction. Put a cover on the calf before nightfall.

## LICE

Infection by lice causes a rapid decline in both the general health and bloom of the calf. During grooming look for lice on the neck, brisket and between the front legs. If discovered early, these small black creatures may be easily eradicated by using a lice powder.

**READ THE DIRECTIONS BEFORE APPLICATION.**



# Preparation and Training



## PRESENTING YOUR CALF:

Here are some points to remember before presenting your calf in the ring: -

- 1: Make sure the halter as well as the lead are clean and shiny.
- 2: Clean ears, tail and hooves and under the chin.
- 3: Wash off signs of manure.
- 4: Give a last brush to smooth the coat and remove any loose hair, particularly under the belly and legs.
- 5: Make sure you also look neat and tidy.

In the ring remember:

- a: Do not hide the calf – make sure the judge can see it closely.
- b: Pay close attention to the judge and your calf.

## LEADING SECTION

### PREPARING THE HALTER:

A simple halter suitable for the training period and the show may be made out of a piece of soft rope. One type is shown below.

Tie a loop 8cm long at one end and another the same size a few centimeters from it. The cord between these 2 loops is placed over the nose of the calf. The long end goes round its head and back under its jaw, passing through the 2 loops.

### INITIAL TRAINING:

Teach your calf to “tie-up” and relax at the end of a rope fastened to a fence. Gain the calf confidence by standing or sitting with it, talking to and patting it. Let it know that you are its friend and it will not be long before it accepts you completely.

When you start leading it, do not be impatient. Hold the lead approx. 10-20cm away from the calf's head with the right hand, fingers uppermost. Allow for a loop between the hands, and with the left hand hold the rope, knuckles uppermost.

Commence training with short leads. The right hand is the steering wheel and brake. Just a slight pressure with a forward or backward motion will start or stop the calf. Always walk just slightly behind the calf's head and soon it will learn that your pace is the speed at which to travel. Do not release the right hand. Do not fool or run with your calf, this could be dangerous.

**REMEMBER, a young animal tires easily.**



Halter Models

# Down to Business!

## LEARNING THE CIRCUIT

When you have learned the particular kind of circuit used in the calf Club competition at school, you should start to make your calf familiar with it. Do remember that a well trained animal will lead on any course so do not neglect any opportunity of leading in a variety of ways.

Erect a simple ring with a reel and electric fence standards to mark the course and use it daily.

Remember, leading is an acquired habit, so make sure everything is done under competition conditions.

To accustom the calf to other people, invite other members of the family to join you in the ring. A little practice daily is the best idea.

## GOING VISITING

Often the calf will lead well at home but on the day of the competition will behave badly because it is frightened and feels insecure.

This can be overcome by introducing the calf to other people and to new sights. Make sure that it is leading well at this stage. Let it meet other people and see other places. As it gets used to many changes like this, the calf club day will just be another experiences, and not something completely new and frightening.



## SHOW DAY

Attention to suitable dress is important. Absolutely NO GUMBOOTS to be worn in the ring – you will lose points for this. Nice shirt, long pants and covered in shoes – nothing that will flap in the wind and scare your animal. Animals become used to smelling familiar articles so plan ahead for this when considering show day clothing. If training has been successful, show day will not be different from the little trial area at home. Your calf has been introduced to other people, cars and a judge. Both you and your calf will be relaxed.

## IN THE RING

On entering the ring, recall all the lessons learned during trainings, don't hurry, **NEVER hit your calf.** IF YOUR CALF WANT TO RELIEVE ITSELF, JUST WAIT UNTIL IT FINISHES.

Keeping these and other points in mind start on the round. The judges wish to see a smart looking child and calf, both with heads up walking together as a team.

He wishes to see the lead rope held properly and used as a steering wheel and brake.

At the stopping standard, count to three slowly, before moving on. Keep well clear of any pegs that have to be traveled round and all will be well.

Make sure the halter is just the right length. This helps make tidy lead

## SOME QUESTIONS THE JUDGES MAY ASK YOU:

..... and would you know the answers to them!

Is its tongue rough or smooth?

Does it have top teeth or bottom teeth?

How does it get up ... front or back feet first?

How do you know when it is sick?

Name 5 noxious weeds?

What do you feed it?

Name 3 other breeds?

What is a NAIT tag?

When was it born?

# Competition Tips!

## LEADING COMPETITION

The calf is led anti-clockwise around the ring. Each child leads the calf around the outside of the pegs, stopping halfway to count to three.

The following actions will be penalized:

- 1: Releasing the right hand grip on the rope at any time.
- 2: Touching the calf with the hand at any time during the competition.
- 3: Hitting the calf with anything (except as indicated in Hint No 6)
- 4: Jerking on the halter.
- 5: Stopping, except as required by the judge, or when the calf wishes to relieve itself.



## HINTS FOR COMPETITORS:

- 1: The right hand should grip the rope, palm upwards, and 10 to 20cms from the halter.
- 2: The left hand should grip the rope, knuckles upward, leaving a loop of slack rope between the hands. This loop of slack rope needs to reach the knees.
- 3: There should remain only 30-45cms of tail end of rope hanging from the left hand

## NO LOOPS OR TRAILING ENDS TOUCHING THE GROUND.

- 4: Stand between head and shoulder of the calf at all times – standing or moving – keep your head up – look straight ahead and walk at the same pace as your calf.
- 5: Pay particular attention to the fit of the halter. Watch the throat especially. Don't use a new halter for the first time on show day.
- 6: If you must hit the calf, do so with a left hand back motion, using the short end of the rope behind your back.
- 7: All control should be exercised by the right hand on the lead.



# The Calf Ring

