

COMFY CALF Suites

THE TRUSTED SOLUTION FOR RAISING CALVES INDOORS.



Comfy Calf Suites offer an advanced, innovative housing alternative to outdoor hutches and other labor intensive options for penning. **Comfy Calf Suites** are safe, efficient and most importantly, very comfortable for your calves and you. Ideal for calves up to eight to ten weeks of age, they are built with durable plastic planks and heavy-duty hardware. **Comfy Calf Suites** are easy to install, easy to clean and the open-front gates allow you to keep a close eye on the future of your dairy herd. Producers throughout the United States, Canada and Europe are choosing **Comfy Calf Suites** (including numerous repeat customers) to raise calves in curtain barns, greenhouses and other types of facilities. Visit www.comfycalfsuites.com to locate the dealer closest to you.

INNOVATIVE . ERGONOMIC . LABOR-EFFICIENT . DURABLE .



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WHY CHOOSE COMFY CALF SUITES?

EASY TO INSTALL

Comfy Calf Suites' plastic planks are interlocking. You just snap them together to create side panels that are 41" or 51" (104.14 or 129.54cm) in height. Once your posts are in place (either stationary style or removable hoop style are available), drop in the front gate, mount a channel to the back wall and slide in the panel. Then simply pin the panel to the channel and you are done!

ERGONOMIC DESIGN

With **Comfy Calf Suites** there's no more climbing over gates or straining under the roof of a hutch to feed, dehorn, treat or observe calves. The galvanized spindle gates at the front of the stall allow you to easily monitor each calf's condition. When you want to enter the stall, the gate can be operated with one hand and it swings in or out. The two-way self-closing latch secures the gate behind you.

HEALTHY CALVES

Comfy Calf Suites' dividers are non-porous so, unlike plywood dividers, they aren't likely to harbor diseases. Calves are close together, yet they remain isolated to prevent the spread of disease. There's zero nose-to-nose contact with the extended front design. Air moves easily through the pen's open top and front for a healthy environment.



LABOR AND SPACE SAVINGS

Unlike calf hutches, which inefficiently spread calves out over large areas, **Comfy Calf Suites** are together in a row. Maintain more calves in less floor space and minimize the distance you carry feed and other supplies.

STRESS-FREE GROUPING

There's no moving of animals when you want to switch calves to group pens. Simply remove the side panels and instantly create an open space for housing a group of six, eight or even ten calves (limited by the number of stalls in the row.) This provides a simple step-up phase to larger groups. Calves are exposed to increased social interaction in a controlled environment.

EASY, LABOR-EFFICIENT CLEANING

Comfy Calf Suites dramatically decrease the amount of time and effort spent on cleaning pens vs. some alternatives. Simply slide away the dividing side panels and zip through with a skidsteer for a fast, easy clean-up. Plastic panels can be power-washed and they dry quickly, too.

DURABILITY

Comfy Calf Suites are built tough to house calves up to 8-10 weeks of age. The 10" (25.40 cm) deep interlocking plastic panels are a full 2" (5.1 cm) in width with intermediate reinforcements inside to add strength. Heavy hot-dipped galvanized steel is used to construct the front spindle gates, posts and bucket brackets. Stainless steel panel channels and back wall brackets are designed for maintenance-free durability.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MOVES CALVES INDOORS



Dr. Hugh Chester-Jones

After many years of housing calves in outdoor hutches, the University of Minnesota's calf and heifer experts decided to bring operations indoors. This allowed for more efficient management of the commercial applied research unit and reduced the impact of harsh Minnesota winters on both the people and calves. They selected **Comfy Calf Suites** for the university's Calf and Heifer Research and Extension Facility at Waseca, MN.

Built in 2004, the site includes two single-

trussed, naturally ventilated barns with curtain sides. Each barn has two rooms with space for 40 calves per room or a total of 160 individual indoor calf pens. About eight hundred calves (two to 200 days of age) flow through the facility each year. The calves are owned by commercial dairy operations and eventually join milking herds. About half the animals are subjects in nutrition, management and health studies. However, the university's emphasis is to manage the calves so all information is directly applicable to commercial farms.

Dr. Hugh Chester-Jones, a UM associate professor in animal science who oversees the facility, says his team's selection of **Comfy Calf Suites** was based on wanting the flexibility to efficiently tear down pens

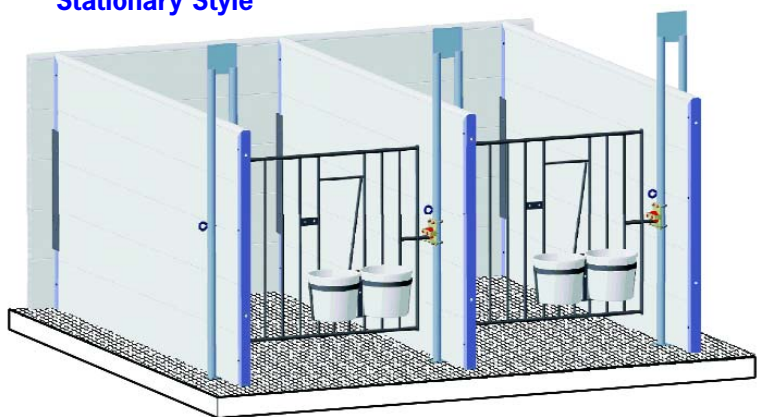
between calf groups and also durability. He says he liked **Comfy Calf Suites'** solid panel design, built to hold up under wear and tear from calves and every day management. Cleaning ease was also an important factor in choosing this pen design. "It power washes nicely, cleans up well and dries between calf groups," says Dr. Chester-Jones.

Observation is also efficient. "You can walk by very quickly and observe calves in the pens," Dr. Chester-Jones adds. "If there is a calf that is sick, you can easily open up the door and go inside, and look at the calf closely and take its temperature."

With two years of experience with **Comfy Calf Suites**, Dr. Chester-Jones reports, "It is a very easy pen to manage."

STANDARD SIZES OR CUSTOM OPTIONS

Stationary Style



Choose from standard sizes or customize to suit your needs:

STANDARD SIZES:

On center stall widths: 36" (91.4 cm), 42" (106.7 cm), 48" (121.9 cm)
 Pen lengths: 72" (182.9cm), 96" (243.8cm)
 Panel heights: 41" (104.1cm), 51" (129.5cm)

SAMPLES OF CUSTOM REQUESTS:

- Custom front widths
- Special divider lengths
- Freestanding suites
- Fronts with headlocks
- Custom wall attachments
- Two hole front to help prevent moisture in feed



EACH COMFY CALF SUITES PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Plastic planks that snap together with stainless steel end channels to create panels.
- Galvanized double posts or hoop style post to hold swinging front gate and keeps dividers in place.
- Galvanized dual pail holder.
- Pull out handles on panels.

- Identification card and clip for calf information included with double post.
- Two white pails for milk, water or grain.
- Stainless steel, quick-attach bracket to mount panel divider to back wall.
- Galvanized front spindle gate for suite front.

ADDITIONAL ACCESSORIES

- A calf pail hold-down which prevents calves from dislocating pails.
- A calf bottle holder.
- A manual lock and flipper to lock a calf's head forward.

MAJESTIC VIEW INSTALLS COMFY CALF SUITES IN 2ND BARN



Terri Abing and Sara Recker

In early 2005 Ron and Terri Abing were deciding which calf penning system to use in a second solar barn at Majestic View Dairy, their 1,000-cow operation in Lancaster, WI. After a quick review of the options, the Abings again selected **Comfy Calf Suites**, the same penning design they have in a solar barn built in 2003.

COMFY CALF Suites

“There was nothing I didn’t like about the system,” says

Terri, who works with the farm’s calf manager, Sara Recker, to oversee calf operations.

In the past the farm used plywood and wire for calf dividers. The heavy duty plastic side panels in **Comfy Calf Suites** are far superior, says

Terri, adding that they have shown virtually no damage from calves or from handling after three years of use. Terri also emphasizes that avoiding the repainting and maintenance needed with plywood calf dividers is a big plus.

CONVENIENCE ADDS TO HUSBANDRY

Both Terri and Sara comment on how easy it is to observe and care for calves in **Comfy Calf Suites**. The solar barns house Majestic View’s heifer calves, which are managed to be bred at 800 pounds (362.9 kg) for calving at 24 months. Outdoor hutches are used for bull calves.

With **Comfy Calf Suites**’ easy-latch gates, a

worker can walk into the pen and get a close look or perform a task without having to climb over a panel or wire fence. “I think employees spend more time with each calf,” says Terri. “In huts, when they are feeding, they have to be constantly bent over and that is so uncomfortable,” she says.

Sara says she is glad her employer decided to move heifer calves indoors. “I don’t like working out in rain,” she admits. “If it were 70 degrees and sunny all the time, huts wouldn’t be too bad, but that’s not the case.”

EASY TO CLEAN

Majestic View’s solar barns each house 66 calves. Calves are weaned at five to six weeks of age in batches of ten, which Terri says offers an ideal time to pull out the **Comfy Calf Suite** side panels and clean the straw bedding pack with a skidsteer loader. Panels are pressure-washed after each group and Terri likes the fact that they are made of a non-porous material. “With the smooth surface, I don’t think bugs can get inside as easily and hide,” she says.

Terri says she feels their state-of-the-art facilities match up well with the farm’s employees’ dedication in caring for Majestic View’s animals. “I’m very lucky because the help we have takes care of the calves as if they were their own,” she says.



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