

What's Happening at Cornell Farms

March, 2008



It's calving time at Cornell Farms so it's our busy time of year. We have approximately 180 cows to calve and usually get quite a few sets of twins. It's around the clock checking when it's freezing out to make sure that the calves get dried off properly with ears and tails intact. No March break for our family!

Here's Garnet feeding hay to the mom's-to-be.



Once calving time nears, the expectant mothers are moved from open pastures to a pen closer to the house so that we can check on their progress. They spend this time eating and sleeping. It's important that they also get salt and mineral to balance their diet.



Once a cow begins to calve, she is moved into the barn to make sure that the calf gets dry and gets a good suck. If it's really cold, we often put the calf into the "hot box". It's a box with a heat lamp in it. Sometimes a calf is born outside and has to be brought in by sled (with the momma cow following very closely)

Mother and calf are kept close to the barn for a few days to make sure that everything is going right before they are moved to the next location.



Once we know that things are going right, they get moved out to the far pen. We use sawdust as our bedding material. Keeping clean bedding reduces sickness in the calves.



For the next 5 to 6 weeks, we have to keep an eye on the calves to make sure that they don't get scours (diarrhea). Once the snow goes away, they all go out onto fresh pasture.

