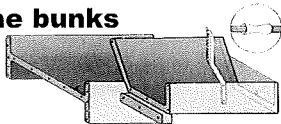


Huber Slats

1497 - 170th St. • Wellman, IA 52356
Bill Huber • Ph. 319-646-2907

Fenceline bunks

Key Benefits



- Acts as both a feeder & a fence for human protection
- Rounded interiors reduce feed waste
- Camphor edges reduce neck abrasions
- Bunks align to form any length
- Bunks are poured with 7,500 psi concrete
- Reinforced with solid rebar frame welded in place
- Optional concrete ends with drain holes available
- Features recessed post to prevent cattle from rubbing on post or cable
- Cable shim reduces wear & lengthens the life of cable
- Concrete step poured in the end of each bunk provides support for adjacent bunk
- Optional end steps are also available

Yard bunks

Key Benefits



- Allows livestock to feed from both sides and ends.
- Rounded interiors reduce feed waste and prevent damage from freezing.
- Rounded camphor edges reduce neck abrasions.
- Solid concrete ends feature drain holes. Drain holes may be plugged for use as a waterer.
- Concrete footing poured on the end of each bunk keeps feed at the appropriate height.
- Bunks are poured with 7,500 psi concrete using 3/8-inch aggregate reinforced with solid 1/2" rebar on 6"x 6" wire mesh squares.

By Grant Dewell, DVM
Veterinary Diagnostic and Production Animal Medicine,
Iowa State University

Prepare now for calving season

Winter is half over, with spring just around the corner. For most Iowa beef producers that means calving season will begin shortly. Cattle producers need to pay attention to cows now to be ready for calving.

About three-fourths of fetal growth occurs in the last two months of gestation. Make sure you are providing adequate nutrition (energy, protein and minerals) to meet cows' increased requirements. It is critical for both the calf vigor/health and rebreeding potential that cows are not losing condition during these last two to three months of gestation.

I recommend that you consciously Body Condition Score (BCS) your cows every two weeks to identify any loss of BCS before it has a negative impact.

Once calving season arrives, check cows and heifers regularly (every two to four hours) and provide assistance as needed. We are expecting another strong calf market this fall and getting a calf to market will provide rewards. In addition, with high feed and fuel costs, you have a major investment getting a cow bred last year and feeding her through the winter. Therefore, losing a calf from preventable death loss such as dystocia or weather-related issues will be very disappointing.

Have it on hand

Prior to calving, make sure you have all supplies and tools on hand including: flashlight, OB lube, soap, water and bucket, calf chains or straps and calf puller. Clean out the calving area and have lots of bedding on hand. A good rule of thumb is to assist females that have been in active labor for 30-60 minutes without progress to minimize calf death loss.

Contact your veterinarian if you have difficulty pulling a calf and are not making progress in 15-30 minutes. Be careful to not pull too hard. A force of over 500 lbs. (equivalent of 2 strong men) can injure the calf or the cow. Most calf pullers can exert thousands of pounds of force with little effort.

The single most important factor for healthy calves once the calf has been born is adequate intake of colostrum within 12 hours. All dystocia calves should be supplemented with colostrum milked from the dam while the cow or heifer is still restrained. Commercial colostrum supplements are available and have some benefit but fresh colostrum is best for the calf.

Careful attention to cows these next few months is vital to obtaining a live calf and a profitable return to the operation.

Order calving books now

Records, rather than vague memories, are also a key to planning for a successful calving season.

You can order Pocket Calving and AI Record Books from the Iowa Cattlemen's Association for \$1 each. (You can also buy them at the ICA booth during the Beef Expo in Des Moines, Feb 10-17.)

Each book includes pages for birth and weaning information, as well as breeding and preg check details for 100 cows. There is also a gestation table to estimate calving dates.

Call 515-296-2266, or email Kellie@iabeef.org to order the books.

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