

Water Tanks

Water is the most important nutrient for general animal well-being. If water or water tanks are not clean cattle may refuse to drink from them. Cattle that don't use the water tank will be stressed, dehydrated and have decreased feed intakes. This is a preventable problem through the regular monitoring and cleaning of water tanks. The receiving period is often a critical time to ensure the adequate supply of fresh water as calves are often dehydrated when they arrive.

Water Tank Protocol

1. Manager will ensure that in the receiving pens there is 3-4 inches of water tank space per head and with sufficient water flow rate to supply the cattle's daily water requirement.
 - A. This may require the addition of round portable tanks to be located 10-15 feet behind the bunk apron in the middle of the pen.
 - B. Ensure that the water in the tank is accessible by the calves (ex. Too tall of sides on tank for baby calves to reach the water).
2. Shipping receiving foreman/cattle manager will make sure that water tanks are functional and filled with water before cattle are placed in any pen.
3. Pen riders will monitor all portable tanks in receiving pens twice per day and will fill them by Using the water truck as needed.
4. Shipping receiving foreman will pull water plug/adjust float in the permanent water tanks to help cattle find the water tank.
5. Mr. Watertank Cleaner will be responsible for cleaning all permanent tanks at least every two weeks and before a new set of cattle are placed in a pen.
 - A scrub brush with hard bristles should be utilized in a back and forth motion across all sides and bottom of the tank to remove debris buildup.
 - When the tank is properly clean the walls should be smooth. The color of the rim of the tank should be seen throughout the entire tank.
 - The scrub brush should be washed, disinfected, and returned to the maintenance area when finished cleaning tanks.
 - The hospital pen should have its own scrub brush. The hospital pen water tanks should be cleaned at least once per week.
6. Pen riders will monitor water tank function and cleanliness daily by visually inspecting the tanks and reporting any problems immediately to Yard R&M Crew Manager.