

# Non-replacement Calves Factsheet

## What are you doing with calves?

Here's some guidance on the options available to you for managing calves and getting calves into a value stream. No matter what you do, make sure you are keeping records of where all your calves end up through your normal calf recording processes such as your yellow mating book, breeding company software, meat processing dockets, vet records or other records. These may be required for verification in the 24/25 season at your Farm Dairy Assessment (details will be provided).



### Bobby processing

Calves must be at least four days of age and fit for transport. If the calves are not fit for transport or there is a welfare issue with the calves, you can euthanise for humane reasons. There may be delays with collections so be prepared to hold your calves until collection is available, this could be up to 10 days. If holding calves on-farm longer is a concern then please talk to your Area Manager. Regular communication with your processor will help you plan. You can find the Dairy NZ Fit for Transport guide here:

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/bobby-calves/transporting-calves/>



### Send to Rearer

If calves are sold off farm, they still need to be at least four days of age and be fit for transport. Please bear in mind, if using beef genetics over heifers, the breed for ease of calving must be considered. Talk to your breeding company for more information on genetics and selection. Ensure your NAIT records are up to date. You can read more about different options for calf rearing here:

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/dairy-calf-opportunities/>



### Send to Petfood

Depending on your service provider, the pet food company may humanely euthanise calves on-farm or transport them live to the factory. If they are being transported, they must be at least four days of age and fit for transport. Talk to your petfood company for their specific requirements.



### Rear on Farm

You can choose to rear your calves yourself on farm. Ensure your NAIT records are up to date. For more information about good practice calf rearing go to Dairy NZ – Calves webpage at:

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/calves/>



### Humane Euthanasia

Throughout all the options humane euthanasia on-farm is acceptable when:

- The calf is suffering in an emergency
- Your vet has advised it is the best option
- The calf is suffering from a significant congenital abnormality
- The calf is unfit for transport

After all recorded options are exhausted for bobby processing, rearing or petfood and no other options are available, euthanasia is acceptable under the Terms of Supply. If processing delays are likely to majorly affect your farm, please get in contact with us.

If none of these options are available and you are considering other options, talk to your Area Manager or the Farm Source Farmer Support Team on: **0800 65 65 68**. We will work with you to come up with a plan.