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## KNOW-HOW FOR YOUR CALF REARING

### Management tips – The little things are the big things!

#### Autofeeder maintenance – Is that beard supposed to be there?

Remember that picture of the mixing bowl of the autofeeder when the fly screen door is open? This picture was taken at a farm in the US. I would note that this feeder was purchased over 5 years ago and it looks like this every day! Some daily scrubbing of the surfaces keep this looking like new and functioning the way it should. Those lucky calves on this farm!



What is that “beard” doing above the mixer bowl. It’s not uncommon to see this on many farms and is another “little” thing to pay attention to.



Once again, the failure to perform some simple maintenance can make all the difference. Use the plastic wand attached just to the left of the mixer bowl to remove this “bear” as it can impair accuracy of powder deliver.

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Another management task which should be repeated at least monthly is to clean the orifice where the powder is delivered. Unscrew the black knob and remove this metal insert. Hand clean it and reinstall it. This seemingly small task improves accuracy and precision of powder delivery.



One more maintenance task for best results!



Although milk replacer powder has extremely low levels of bacteria it's a good idea to occasionally clean the "hopper" where the powder is stored prior to delivery to the calf. Moisture is always present near the feeder and milk replacer powder is very hygroscopic meaning it absorbs water. Wait until the hopper is nearly empty and then remove powder residue and wipe the surface with a damp cloth. Allow to dry before adding more powder. This will be more important to do during warm weather!

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Management tip – clean the beard daily, remove the insert and clean weekly, and clean the hopper at least monthly if optimize the function of your autofeeder.