

Animal Welfare Science Centre
Faculty of Land and Food Resources
The University of Melbourne
Parkville, Vic 3010.

Dear Dairy Farmer/Calf Rearer,

The Animal Welfare Science Centre is working in conjunction with the Professional Calf Rearers' Association to collect information regarding calf rearing practices across Australia. The aim of the project is to determine the most common rearing practices that occur on dairy and contract rearing farms across Australia, with the view to using the data to determine where further research or training resources could be provided to the Industry. This project has Human Ethics Approval from The University of Melbourne (Application 0720042).

We are writing to request your participation in the project. Participation would include completing an anonymous survey regarding your calf rearing facilities and practices. All surveys will be numbered and staff from the Centre will not have access your personal information once the surveys have been completed and returned. Once all the surveys have been completed and returned all records linking survey numbers with participants will be destroyed.

This project is an important step to improving the welfare and production success of calf rearing. The data will be accumulated into a final report outlining common rearing practices in Australia and recommendations for further research and/or areas where training resources would be useful for the industry. Each participant will receive a copy of the final report upon completion of the project.

It is hoped that this project will enable the Centre to develop a number of further projects aimed at improving production and welfare in the calf rearing industry.

Should you be willing to participate please email me at mariko.lauber@dpi.vic.gov.au or call me on (03) 9217 4147 to provide me with your postal address so I can post you the survey and consent form. We will also provide you with a reply paid envelope to return the survey to us.

Please note that your participation in this project is voluntary and should you decide to participate you are free to withdraw at any time.

We look forward to your response.

Kind regards,



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