

Preface



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Guest Editors

Whether the goal is to improve profitability, maintain herd biosecurity, make genetic progress, or increase herd size, a focus on dairy heifer management is a timely topic for this edition of *Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice*. The demand for dairy heifers is very strong, which makes it more costly to purchase than raise healthy replacement heifers. In this issue we have focused on the aspects of dairy heifer management that we believe are most critical to dairy heifer health, performance, and profitability. We have recruited respected world-renowned authors to address new developments, technologies, and strategies in newborn calf management, colostrum delivery, calf housing, nutrition, and health management, and the use of records to improve the health and economics of raising heifers. Increased survival and growth and decreasing the average age at first calving will have a profound impact on the cost of replacement heifer rearing. Recognizing the challenges of maintaining health, disease investigation strategies, welfare principles, and a comprehensive overview of biosecurity is presented. We hope that this issue, with its focus on dairy heifers, will provide the information needed to increase the number of healthy dairy heifers

and provide the tools for more efficient use of resources, labor, feed, and facilities.

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