

Lamb & Calf Calling Information

This year, like last year, calling your lamb or calf on lamb and calf day is optional. For those wishing to give it a try here are some ideas to help you.



Lamb;

The best time to practice calling is at feeding time. Start by feeding the lamb some of its milk, then get someone to hold your lamb as you run a short distance away. Showing the lamb its bottle and calling its name loudly have the person holding the lamb let it go. It should come straight to you. Give the lamb a pat and feed it some more milk. Do this a couple more times during the feed.

As the lamb improves increase the distance you stand from it when you are calling. Once the lamb is doing this well hide the bottle behind your back until the lamb comes to you, then give it some milk.

Once your lamb is doing this well, practice without using the bottle. Finding something that the lamb likes to eat can be helpful for example raisins, bread, calf meal etc. When the lamb comes to you reward it with lots of praise and hugs and this little treat.



Calves

If you feed your calf with a bottle then teaching them to call is exactly like a lamb. If not practice calling your calf to the feeder at feeding time.

Once the calf is coming consistently find a treat that the calf likes to eat for example raisins, bread, toast, calf meal, maize etc. Practice calling your calf when it is hungry. Have someone hold the calf, move a small distance away from it and call it. Once it comes to you give it a big hug and a treat. Slowly increase the distance you are from the calf. Once the calf is doing this hide the treat so that it comes to you first then receives the treat

On the day you will have the option of having you calf attached to a rope so that if it decides not to come it is easily caught. If you want to use the rope it is a good idea to practice this at home so that it will be use to it on the day.

Remember on the day you are not allowed bottles or treats in the ring. Make sure you practice using a loud voice because there will be lots of distraction.

The more time you spend with you calf/lamb the better they will call. Make sure you give them lots of hugs and praise when they come to you.