

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I use regular (individual) or super-sized hutches?

The hutch size you choose depends on the size of calf you are planning on housing. If you want to house calves that will eventually grow larger than the doorway height of an individual hutch, we recommend housing calves in a super hutch. It is important to understand that once calves are group housed, they will lay together in a regular sized hutch.

How many hutches do I need to have?

The amount of hutches you need depends on how crowded you want to keep your calves.

Regular Hutches - Expect 2 to 3 pre-weaned calves (up to 3 month old) to lay in each hutch at one time.

Super Hutches - It is safe to expect 3 to 5 weaned calves to fit in one hutch.

How much canopy space should I provide for each calf?

The amount of space you provide each calf is a personal decision. The calves do like to jump, kick and play if it is a nice day. Also keep in mind, the more crowded your calves are, the more bedding you will need to keep them dry.

Regular Sized - On our home farm in our Regular 318 Model, we will keep up to 8 calves (depending on the calf ages).

Super Sized - In our Super 116 model, we house calves aged from 3-5 months. We often will only keep 3 calves in this unit.

These Calf densities allow us to get away with lightly bedding once or twice a week (just enough to keep things fluffy and dry).

What type of feed bunk should I choose?

We offer two different styles of feed bunks. One is 4ft long and is 6 inches wide. It is commonly used with smaller livestock such as; goats or sheep. Producers also will use this bunk if they are housing smaller calves because it is easier for the calves to reach the feed. Taller people will find they have to bend and reach to put feed in these bunks under the bunk roofs. Feed in these bunks stays dry through any type of storm because the roof is about 2 feet wider than the bunk. Our other style is a 10ft feed trough that is 19 inches wide. It is used by producers who want to feed a large amount of feed. It is perfect for holding hay or TMR. In a driving rain, you may find you need to cover the open front with a tarp to keep feed totally dry.

What additional on options are available?

1) Shade Cloth Panels for the East and West sides

To keep the benefits from outdoor housing ventilation, we don't want to stop the air from flowing within the canopy. If anything, we just want to slow it down. These panels act as a rain or snow shield. They help keep the bedding within the canopy dry. On a windy day they slow the wind down, keeping loose bedding in the canopy and the environment a little less windy for your livestock.

Remember that the calves will lay in the hutches to get out of the worst of the wind or cold. The Panels are designed so they can hook onto the canopy. This allows them to be moved easily.

2) Solid Inserts for the East and West Sides

In windy areas, it is important to reduce the amount of wind blowing through and across the bedding in your canopy. To aid with this issue we have designed solid panels that will hook onto the bottom half of your end gates. The shade cloth panels are designed to hang over top of the solid panels. This combination is perfect for housing calves in environments with high wind speeds.

3) Front Shade Cloth Panels

Some producers find they need some extra coverage on the front of their canopies to stop the snow or rain from getting in. The sizes are developed based off of what each customer wants. The panels hook onto the piece of wood on the front of the canopy.

4) Pen Dividers

These are used inside of the canopy to make sub groups.

I like the idea of being able to move my regular hutches easily. It will allow me to clean my hutches more frequently. But, I want to keep housing my calves individually. Can I house my calves individually using your calf canopy?

Yes. We sell pen dividers that will fit in-between each section. You can also just insert your own gates. We can extend the feed bunk roof to cover the whole front of your unit (for an additional cost).

Can I group house a wide range of different aged calves?

Yes. As long as you provide enough feeding space and a sufficient amount of feed. If your calves are on an accelerated feed program, you will find each calf develops her own eating schedule.

Can I use a calf canopy to house other livestock?

Yes. We can make necessary adjustments to make the canopy fit your livestock. For example, housing goats or sheep. We adjust the head rail height and spacing so they can reach over and eat feed out of our 4ft bunks.

What if I don't want a particular feature?

In most cases, we will adjust the design and price based off of your needs.

Are the calf canopies adaptable to automatic feeders?

We have not developed one yet, but the potential is there.