



CALF MANAGEMENT ACADEMY

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BASIC CALF CARE SKILL SHEETS

6b. Insert Plastic Button in a Calf's Ear

Timing:

- A heifer calf, in order to be identified with an electronic scanner, needs to have an ID button in her ear.

Equipment:

- Tagging tool.
- Plastic buttons.

Action Required:

- Make a written record of the button number and the matching metal tag.
- Prepare the button and tagging tool.
- Restrain the calf.
- Insert the button

Physical Appearance:

- The button is inserted $1/3^{\text{rd}}$ of the distance from the head to the tip of the ear.

Safety:

- **If done in the pen with the dam, keep an eye on her. If she is aggressive leave the pen immediately and get help.**

Biosecurity:

- **Eliminate as much as possible contact between the newborn calf and adult cow manure. Remember to clean adult cow manure off your boots and clothing before handling a newborn calf.**