

Research: Effects of Mixing on Dairy Calves Behaviour Group housing provides

increased access to space and social interactions for calves while reducing labour costs for producers. However, group housing requires that calves be mixed and no research to date has addressed the effects of mixing on the behaviour of milk-fed dairy calves. The objective of this study was to monitor the feeding and competitive behaviour of individual dairy calves following their introduction into an established group of older calves fed at will by a computer-controlled milk feeder. Results indicate that the feeding behaviour of young calves is altered on the day they are introduced into the group, but calves are able to maintain their milk intake when using a milk feeder fitted in a stall that prevents calves from displacing one another.

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