



## Fiji DAIRYNOTE 4.3 – Breeding and Reproduction: Stages of Calving

### Good Practice Guide for Fiji Dairy Farmers

#### Stages of Calving

##### Stage one



*Tail lifting, arched back*



*Swollen vulva*



*Straining and restless*



*Water bag appearing*

- These pictures show the first stages of calving. Other signs that a cow is preparing to calve include: tail swishing, standing alone (away from other cows), mooing and trying to mother other calves.
- When you see these signs, record them and note the time. Report them to your manager or the person in charge.



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### Stage two

#### Signs of a normal labour

- Two feet and a head.
- Progress in 20 minutes (e.g. once the water bag has appeared, the head and/or front legs should be seen after 20mins).
- Calf is out within 2 hours of first sign – if not, assistance may be needed.
- Heifers will generally take longer to calve than cows – if the labour is abnormal, get help.
- Refer to the DairyNote on calving management for more information.



### Stage three

- The placenta comes out – normally within 6 hours; don't pull on the placenta, this can damage the uterus.

