

ARARIMU SCHOOL

CALF CLUB PROGRAMME

2025

20 SEPTEMBER





A learning pathway for future success.

CALF CLUB - 2025

Calf Club Day is a long-standing and valued tradition at Ararimu School.

It forms an important part of our school's learning programme and reflects our strong rural heritage. Participation is expected from all students, and we see this day as a key opportunity for authentic, hands-on learning, community involvement, and school pride. Attendance and active involvement in Calf Club Day are not optional—they are an essential part of being a student at Ararimu School. **This year Calf Club is on Saturday 20th September.**

All children are **EXPECTED** to enter **one** of the following categories:

- **Raising an animal** - a calf, a lamb, a kid or a chicken

OR

- **A Garden Project** - this years theme is 'An Edible Garden'

Challenge Project - Children may enter this **in addition to** presenting an animal or garden. This years challenge is to create a Trolley for a Trolley Derby. There are two categories - a child alone project or a child with an adult. For those interested in doing the challenge this year please call in and pick up an information sheet from the office - it will have all the dimensions/specifications etc.

This booklet contains information that will help you prepare for this annual event.

There will be an animal crèche in the swimming pool area from Week 2 of Term 3. The senior students will help your child feed their lamb or goat once a day at noon. Please name your bottles and have the milk made up. Premixed milk is heated by warm water only, not by microwave. We are looking forward to seeing your healthy animals – please no sick animals or we will immediately ask for them to be taken home. (Only Calf Club animal entrants are invited to the crèche please).



CALF REARING

Choosing a Calf:

Choose a calf of either:

Dairy breed e.g. Friesian, Jersey, Ayrshire or a cross. It must be a heifer (female) for the dairy section (a dairy bull is Beef type).

Beef breed e.g. Hereford, Angus, Murray Grey, Simmental etc, or a cross. A beef calf can be either a heifer or bull or a Dairy bull.

****ALL BULL CALVES MUST BE RINGED BEFORE CALF CLUB DAY****

****CLIPPING, OILING THE COAT OR NUGGETING THE HOOVES IS NOT PERMITTED ****

The calf must be born on or after 1st July and no later than 31st August.

The calf **must** be tagged with a NAIT approved RFID ear tag and registered with NAIT. If the procedures are not followed you will be asked to immediately take your calf off the school premises. At all stages of the day you are to follow the steward's instructions, and after judging take your calf home.

When purchasing your healthy calf, check that it is at least 4 days old and has been well fed on colostrum. Look for small dry navels, pricked up ears, firm faeces, clear bright eyes, moist noses, shiny coats and playful movements.

Feeding:

The calf must have colostrum (first milk from its mother) for the first 4 days. This is full of antibodies that protect the calf from disease. Colostrum can be purchased from the vets and can be kept frozen, or from farming supply stores (PGG Wrightsons, RD1, Farmlands or Profarm) as a powder to mix for feeding. If you receive a day old animal that has been abandoned and hasn't been able to feed properly it is important that you give it colostrum in place of what it would normally have received from its mother.

Feed a newly arrived calf only electrolytes for the first 12 hours after arrival. This can help prevent stomach upsets from stress and change of milk feed (e.g. cow's milk to milk powder).

Decide what calf milk powder you are going to use and don't change it as this can upset the calf's tummy. Mix the milk following the instructions on the bag. Be accurate and weigh the correct amount of powder. Start off giving about 1 litre of milk twice a day; at 4 days old gradually increase by 500mls per week to a maximum of 3 litres (fed twice daily) for a big beef or Friesian calf and about 2.5 litres for a smaller or Jersey calf. You can feed the calf using a bottle or a bucket. Remember to be hygienic and use clean containers/bottles. From 2 days old you can offer them calf meal or hay. Have fresh clean water, changed daily, available at all times. The calf can be weaned at 10 – 12 weeks of age, but not until **after** Calf Club. Weaning means reducing to only one feed a day for a few days then stopping all milk feeds. Giving hay and meal will help the weaning process and prevent stressing the calf too much. A calf should not be raised on either its mother or a foster mother.

Shelter & Grooming:

A calf cover is a great idea for keeping your calf warm and it also keeps the coat shiny and clean. A calf cover can be purchased from farm supply stores

. You need a nice warm, draught-free area for your calf to sleep in. A bed of straw or untreated wood shavings is ideal. Brush the calf daily with a soft brush. Wash the calf 2 weeks before Calf Club, then again 1 week before. Use warm water, dry the calf well afterwards, cover and keep warm. No calf is to be clipped or oiled for Calf Club. Any artificial shining agents used will be marked down by the judge.

Leading:

Your calf needs to get used to you so talk to it often, even when leading. A halter and lead is required. It is best to lead your calf before feeding. The calf must be led on your right hand side. Hold the lead about 10 – 30cm from the halter, palm upwards, and pass the lead across your body. Hold your left hand with knuckles upwards, there should be 30 – 40cm of tail end hanging straight from the left hand – no coils or loops around your hand as this is dangerous (if the calf runs off you could be dragged). Start by leading once a day and increase as the calf becomes more willing to walk alongside you. Tying the calf up for short periods and while grooming helps them get used to their halter. If your calf is being stubborn and won't walk, push on the calf's tail top and release as soon as it starts to walk. Patience is required but if you stick at it you will get results. Ask someone who has done it before to help. Set up the course at home to practice. When competing you will be marked down if you jerk the halter, slap, elbow or push the calf with your body. Remember the halter is your steering wheel, accelerator and brake so get into good habits now.

Health:

Dehorning - If required, this should be done early; check with a farmer or a vet.

Navel Infections - This occurs in early days; infections can enter the umbilical cord when it has not dried. This will cause swollen joints and your calf will have trouble getting up, and be listless. You can dip the cord in Iodine to prevent this. In severe cases the calf will need antibiotics. Keep your calf in a clean environment.

Vaccine - An injection is required at 6 and 12 weeks of age; this is important and without it your calf could die. Contact a vet or farmer for this. It is not expensive.

Drench - For worms from 6-8 weeks of age. Pour on (down back bone – from base of neck to top of tail) is the easiest method. Other options are oral or injection application.

Lice – Are a common problem. Some of the pour on drenches also control lice, but it is necessary to brush the lice eggs from the coat.

Ringworm - A skin condition which is caused by a fungus; it appears as roughly circular bare or raised dry rough areas of different sizes on any part of the calf's body. Iodine can be an effective treatment - seek advice if unsure.

Scours (diarrhea) - Not uncommon and can be caused by stress during sale and transport, or simply by putting a calf on milk powder and/or not getting the quantity right. The calf will need to be taken off milk and given electrolytes. Give these twice daily in place of the milk based feeds for 2 days, and then gradually reintroduce to milk. If the calf doesn't respond to the electrolytes, the situation can become life threatening. The calf will become dopey and eventually stop feeding. Call a vet if the calf doesn't respond to the electrolytes or it keeps getting repeat occurrences of scours. Electrolytes can be purchased from a vet or farming supply store.

Check out the website www.calfclub.co.nz for more information and read the resources you have been given by school – from Ministry of Primary Industries, Franklin Vets and the Franklin Group Ag Day Committee.

PROCEDURE ON CALF CLUB DAY

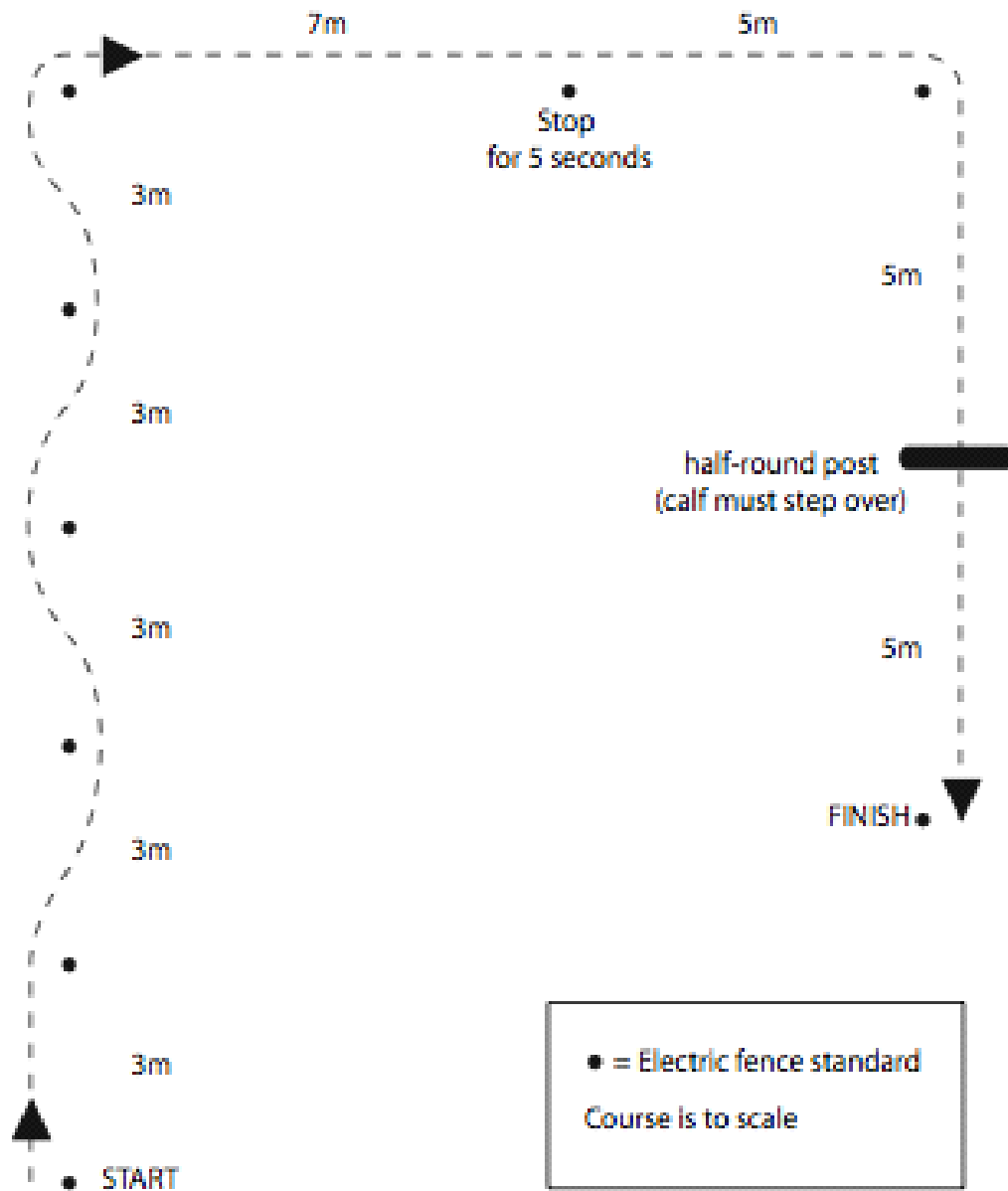
On the day, collect your number from the Stewards on the table at the calf ring on the field, find out where the arena is, then settle your calf in

- YOU MUST **NOT** have milk with you but do have a bucket of fresh water for **ONLY** your calf to drink. **Do not share with other animals.**
- Do not have your calf where it can make contact with other calves – the area will be flagged by the organisers.
- Do not let other children pat the calves please.

Be ready by the arena when called. You will compete in leading, rearing, and either dairy or beef type.

You need to know how old your calf is and answer basic questions about looking after your calf when you compete in rearing. The judges can tell how well your calf has been looked after just by looking at it. Bring a wet towel in a plastic bag to wipe your calf in case it gets dirty and also bring your calf brush, calf cover, some meal and/or hay. At home in the morning of Calf Club only give your calf a small milk feed.

CALF LEADING COURSE





LAMB REARING

When you get your lamb it may only be a few days old. It needs to be kept warm, with a clean dry bed to sleep on. New lambs sleep most of the time in between feeds. You can put your lamb outside when it is warm and sunny, but otherwise it must be inside, out of the cold wind and rain as it has no mother to snuggle up to, to keep warm. Your lamb will look to your family for food and company, which is normally supplied by its mother, so spend lots of time playing with and enjoying your new friend.

Choosing a Lamb:

All healthy lambs are suitable; there is no judging on breed or type. Your lamb must be born on or after the 1st July and no later than the 31st August.

Feeding:

The newborn lamb should receive its mother's first milk (colostrum); this is very important and needs to be given within six hours of birth to be absorbed properly. Colostrum gives antibodies to fight disease. Even milk from another newly lambed ewe is a help if the lamb's own mother is not available. Colostrum can be purchased from the vets and can be kept frozen; or from farming supply stores (PGG Wrightsons, RD1, Farmlands or Profarm) as a powder to mix up. If you receive a day old animal that has been abandoned and hasn't been able to feed properly it is important that you give it some colostrum in place of what it would normally have received from its mother. You will need to choose a suitable lamb milk powder to rear your lamb on. Stay with the same brand and do not change as this can upset its tummy. Follow the mixing instructions on the bag and do not dilute to make it go further as your lamb will not grow properly. Mix up the day's milk and keep it in the fridge. Heat up a bottle as required. Feed warm, NEVER HOT. Do not over-feed, especially in the early weeks. It is better to keep it a little hungry. From 1 week of age have pasture available for the lamb to eat and have fresh water available at all times.

NOTE – Many common garden plants are poisonous to lambs so they must not be able to nibble at flowers and leaves.

Leading:

A newborn lamb has very poor eye sight but will soon follow your voice so talk to it often and it will get used to your voice. Call your lamb at feed times. It enjoys being patted and will enjoy your company; after a while it will want to follow you everywhere. Preferably before a feed, put a collar and lead on your lamb and let it walk alongside you. Your lamb must be on your right side when leading, with its shoulder by your leg. The lead is held firmly in your right hand and passes across the front of your body with the excess coiled in your left hand. Adjust your pace to suit the lamb, never drag or pull your lamb or allow dogs to chase it. Be patient and only practice for a short time, then give a bottle of milk as a reward, even if it didn't lead well. Lambs are very clever and will learn to walk alongside you, and learn to start and stop when told.

Grooming:

Lambs should be in their natural condition. NO brushing, NEVER use soap/shampoo as it will remove the natural oils. If the lamb is dirty you can wipe excess dirt off with just water.

Health:

Your lamb must have a vaccination at 6 and 10 weeks of age. This is to stop diseases that can kill your lamb. Ask a sheep farmer to help or see your vet; it is not expensive to do. Tail ringing and castration of your lamb can be done when it is a week old. Get an experienced person to do this job as it is very easy to miss one or both testicles and end up with an empty ringed scrotum. The sooner you do this the sooner your lamb will get over it and the tail and bag will drop off. Worming is to be done at 3 months of age - ask a sheep farmer to help or see your vet.

PROCEDURE ON CALF CLUB DAY

When you arrive, collect your number from the stewards on the desk at the lamb ring and settle in with your lamb. Remember to bring a water container for your lamb to drink from. Be ready when called.

Leading:

Your lamb must walk beside you, stop when you stop and wait five seconds, then start off again when you walk off.

Calling:

The steward will hold your lamb while you walk approximately 10m away, then you turn and call your lamb to you. Use your usual voice and be loud and clear. It's best to only give your

lamb half its bottle on Calf Club Day morning to keep it a little hungry as it will call/lead better. When you have finished in the ring give your lamb the rest of its bottle.

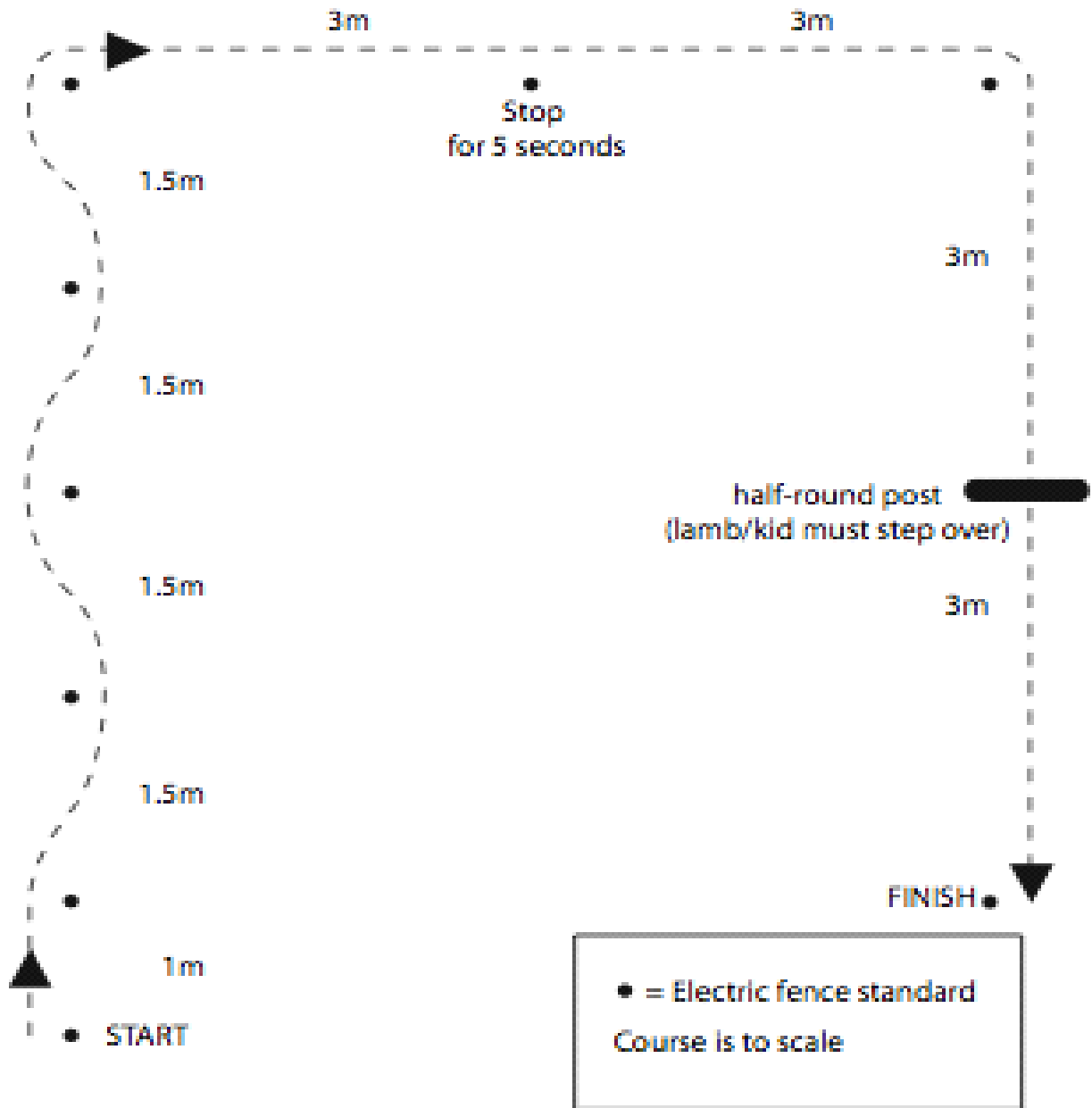
Rearing:

This is judged on the size of the lamb for its age, so remember how old your lamb is and its date of birth. The lamb is also judged for excellence of health.

AFTER CALF CLUB DAY

If your lamb is 8 weeks or older it may be gradually weaned by cutting down its feeds. It is okay now to water down the milk - this encourages the lamb to eat more grass. It will take the lamb a while to adjust; don't forget to play with your lamb in the paddock as it gets used to the change of routine.

LAMB & KID LEADING COURSE





KID GOAT REARING

When you get your kid it may only be a few days old. It needs to be kept warm, with a clean, dry bed to sleep in. New kids sleep most of the time in between feeds. You can put your kid outside when it is warm and sunny, but otherwise it must be kept inside, out of the cold wind and rain, as it has no mother to snuggle up to, to keep warm. Your kid will look to your family for food and company which is normally supplied by its mother, so spend lots of time playing with and enjoying your new friend.

Choosing a Kid:

No selection is necessary as all kids are suitable. There is no judging on breed or type. Your kid must be born on or after the 1st July and no later than the 31st August.

Feeding:

The newborn kid should receive its mother's first milk (colostrum); this is very important and needs to be given within six hours of birth to be absorbed properly. Colostrum gives antibodies to help fight disease. Even milk from another newly kidded goat is a help if the kid's own mother is not available. Colostrum can be purchased from the vets and can be kept frozen, or from farm supply stores as a powder to mix up. If you receive a day old animal that has been abandoned and has not been able to feed properly it is important that you give it some colostrum in place of what it would normally have received from its mother. You will need to choose a suitable lamb/goat milk powder to rear your kid on. Stay with the same brand and do not change as this can upset its tummy. Follow the instructions on the bag and do not dilute to make it go further as your kid will not grow properly. Mix up the day's milk and keep it in the fridge. Heat up a bottle as required. Feed warm, NEVER HOT. Do not over feed, especially in the early weeks. It is better to keep it a little hungry. From a week of age have pasture available for the kid to eat and have fresh water available at all times.

NOTE – Many common garden plants are poisonous to goats so they must not be able to nibble at flowers and leaves.

Leading:

Your newborn kid needs to get used to you, so talk to it often and it will get used to your voice. Call your kid at feed times. It enjoys being patted and will enjoy your company; after a while it will want to follow you everywhere. Preferably before a feed, put a collar and lead on your kid and let it walk alongside you. Your kid must be on your right side when leading it, with its shoulder by your leg. The lead is held firmly in your right hand and passes across the front of your body with the excess coiled in your left hand. Adjust your pace to suit the kid - never drag or pull your kid or allow dogs to chase it. Be patient and only practice for a short time, then give a bottle of milk as a reward even if it didn't lead well. The kid is very clever and will learn to walk alongside you, and learn to start and stop when told.

Grooming:

Kids may be washed with warm water only. NO soap/shampoo as it will remove the natural oils. Kids enjoy being brushed and this keeps the hair looking nice. They must not be shampooed for Calf Club Day.

Health:

Your kid must have a vaccination at 6 and 10 weeks of age. This is to stop diseases that can kill your kid. Ask a sheep/goat farmer to help or see your vet; it is not expensive to do. Castration (or ringing) of your buck (male goat) can be done when it is a few days old. Get an experienced person to do this job as it is very easy to miss one or both testicles and end up with an empty ringed scrotum. The sooner you do this, the sooner your kid will be over it and the bag will drop off. Worming is to be done at 3 months of age - ask a sheep/goat farmer to help or see your vet.

PROCEDURE ON CALF CLUB DAY

When you arrive, collect your number from the steward in the goat arena and settle in with your kid. Remember to bring a water container for your kid. Be ready when called.

Leading:

Your kid must walk beside you, stop when you stop and wait five seconds, then start off again when you walk off.

Calling:

The steward will hold your kid while you walk approximately 10m away, then you turn and call your kid to you. Use your usual voice and be loud and clear. It's best to only give your kid half its bottle on Calf Club Day morning to keep it a little hungry as it will call/lead better. When you have finished in the ring, give your kid the rest of its bottle.

Rearing:

This is judged on the size of the kid for its age, so remember how old your kid is and its date of birth. The kid is also judged for excellence of health.

AFTER CALF CLUB DAY

If your kid is twelve weeks old it may be gradually weaned by cutting down its feeds. It is ok now to water down the milk - this encourages the kid to eat more grass. It will take the kid a while to adjust; don't forget to play with your kid in the paddock as it gets used to the change of routine.

Goats require three monthly worming as they do not build a resistance to worms like sheep do. They need somewhere to get out of the rain as they do not have a fat layer to keep them warm like sheep and their hair is not waterproof like fleece. They must have water available at all times.



CHICKENS

Ordering Chickens

If you intend to raise a chicken, you will be able to order these through school on the order form in the office. Each child will receive the number of 1 day old (Shaver Brown) layer chicks ordered). To transport chicks you will need a box with light bedding (shredded paper) to keep them warm. Please note that there will only be one order placed for chickens. If your chickens die or you decide to raise chickens after the order date, then it will be your responsibility to obtain the chickens. If you chose to source your own chickens they must have been hatched within a 5 day window either side of the 24th June (the day that the school ordered ones are arriving).

Caring for your chicken:

Warmth – When you first receive your chicks make sure they are warm as this is their first need - they will not start to feed if they are cold. Chicks can be kept in the hot water cupboard for the first couple of nights until other suitable arrangements have been made. A 40-60 watt bulb hung over a suitable box, about 30cm above the chicks, will provide a good temperature. The temperature should be about 33 degrees Celsius for the first week and reduced down weekly until it is about 15 degrees Celsius. During the first 2-3 days the chicks only need a small area close to the light so that they become aware of the heat source, then their box area can be made bigger. If the chicks tend to pack into corners away from the heat source then it is too hot (be aware: they may suffocate or be crushed to death); if they huddle under the lamp and barely move then they are too cold to feed themselves. Adjust the temperature accordingly.

Food and Water – The most suitable feed for chick rearing is Chick Starter Crumble, which contains vitamins and minerals as well as an additive to prevent coccidiosis (which will kill your chicks); this is available at feed merchants and rural supply shops. Mash can be slowly introduced at around 3 weeks, reducing the lumps (crumbles) in the mixture.

Give the chicks access to fresh, clean water in a suitable container - they must not be able to get wet, or spill the water, which will make their enclosure wet and cold. The water **must** be kept clean and fresh.

DO NOT over feed them – Start with about 1 tablespoon of feed per chick twice a day (slowly increasing the amount) – take the feed away from them if they haven't finished it after 10 minutes. By the end of the first week you can leave the food in with them all the time for continuous feeding.

General – PLEASE keep their water fresh and their box/cage extremely clean and dry **at all times**. They can become sick very easily if they are wet, dirty and cold. As the chickens grow so should the area they live in!

By the end of their second week, if it is warm outside, you will need to encourage them to be outside where they can scratch around during the day. Put them back in the box with the light for warmth at night. Continue to provide heat until the chickens are 3-5 weeks old.

Procedure on CALF CLUB Day

When bringing your chicken to Calf Club it must be in a cage. Only one chicken is allowed per cage. Remember to bring food and a water container for your chicken to drink out of, and anything you need for your chicken to perform its trick. Take your chicken in its cage to the chicken tent, where you will collect your number. Wait with your chicken and be ready for when the judge calls you.

Judging:

The chickens will be judged in three areas:

Diary –An example diary is available in the school office. The content of the example diary needs to be included; how you present this is up to you; you may choose to use the example diary that is provided, or create your own diary. Look for extra information and pictures, think carefully about the presentation and think about what you are being asked to write. Diaries need to be completed and returned to school by **3.00pm Friday 12th September** so they can be passed onto the judge. **No late entries will be accepted. Diaries are to be no smaller than A4 size.**

Rearing - The judge will look at the condition of your chicken to see if it is healthy and has been well looked after.

Handling - The judge will ask you to take your chicken out of its cage and present it to him/her. It is also at this stage that the judge will ask to see the trick that has been practised. This is an important part of the handling as it will help demonstrate how often you have handled your chicken.

Your trick should be something you can put together by yourself and can bring on the day. It is ideal to start after your chicken is a month old; be patient and only practise for a short time each day.



GARDENS

An alternative for children who do not wish to raise an animal is to create a garden. The garden must be worked on at home and brought to school for judging. A "design and make" diary, including drawings or photos, detailing the concept, work involved, and growing progress must also accompany the garden. The diary must be handed into the office no later than **3.00pm on Friday 12th September. No late entries will be accepted.**

Your garden is to be brought into school by **9am** on Calf Club Day - **Saturday 20th September.**

Theme:

This year's garden theme is "**An Edible Garden**"

Garden Restrictions:

The size of the garden must NOT be any bigger than 1m x 1m. The type of container that the garden is planted in is up to the imagination of each child. Remember it needs to be transported to and from school on Calf Club Day. Your child, using their diary, will need to be able to explain how their garden fits the chosen theme and must be completely self-contained and not need any external support systems such as power.

PROCEDURE FOR CALF CLUB DAY

On arrival at school, place the garden in the designated section depending on age. During the day listen carefully and be ready to come to your garden when the judges call you. The judges will use your diary to ask questions about your garden and the process of planting it, and the decisions you had to make along the way.

At the completion of the day your garden must be removed and taken home or it may not be there at the end of the holidays!



CHALLENGE PROJECT

DERBY TROLLEY

There are two categories:

- A child only constructed Derby Trolley - without any adult input, except if an aspect is particularly difficult or for safety reasons. Any support given must be written in the 'design and make' brief.
- A parent and child constructed Derby Trolley – The child completes the "design and make" brief by themselves and has adult help with the construction.

The Design and Make Brief Diary must be completed with writing and photographs. It will contain the plan, making, trialling/re-trialling, modifying, decorating and the finished Derby Trolley.

Just the diary must be brought to school by **3.00pm Friday 12th September** so the judges can see the process of planning and building of the Derby Trolley. **No late entries will be accepted**

PROCEDURE FOR JUDGING

Bring your Derby Trolley to school by **9am on Calf Club Day - Saturday 20th September** for judging. Come to the office and you will be shown where to place your Derby Trolley. The judge will ask you questions about the process you went through when planning and building your Derby Trolley, the trialling of it and the decisions you had to make along the way. At the completion of the Calf Club Day, your Derby Trolley must be taken home.