



**Outdoor Housing System**

■ **Calf Rearing Unit  
from Förster**

**Maximum Comfort  
for Calves**



# Fresh Air – Healthy Calves

## Young Calves – a Rearing Unit of their Own

The rearing unit from Förster-Technik perfectly meets these requirements. The calves are housed in an area apart from the other cattle under outdoor climatic conditions. The ambient air is rich in oxygen and low in germs thus assisting animals' health and resistance to disease.

Calves are comfortable even at low ambient temperatures. The freedom of movement and the sunlight contribute to animals' well being and stimulate their body's defences to a great extent.

### „As you make your bed ...“

Calf buildings have to meet specific criteria in order to optimize animals' full productive potential. Design as well as microclimate are of particular importance for calves during the feeding period.

Many calf rearers complain of microclimate and subsequent health problems due to continuous draught, harmful gases which damage the respiratory system, high humidity and increased germ levels.

In closed calf buildings it is very costly to reach an optimum environment. Therefore new housing systems for calves have to ensure plenty of fresh air, thus reducing the germ levels.

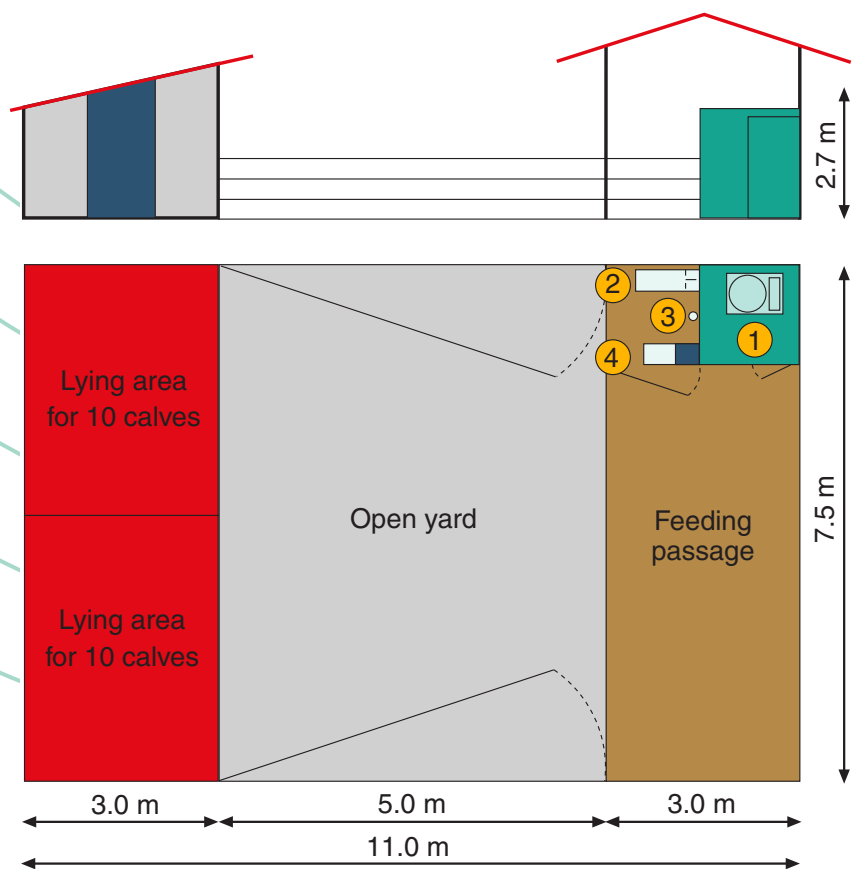




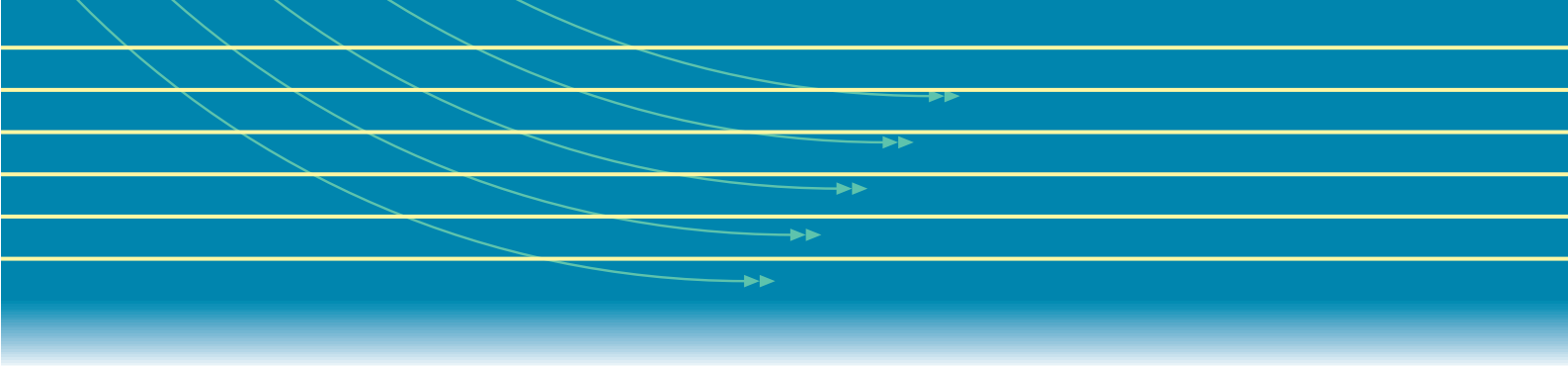
## View and Plan

### Rearing Unit for 20 calves

- ① Store- and function room with automatic feeder
- ② Feeding station
- ③ Watering point
- ④ Concentrate feeder



**Protected  
in all  
Weathers**



### Insulated Store- and Function Room

At the end of the feeding passage is situated an insulated store- and function room for dry storage of milk powder, concentrate and feed supplements, thus protecting them against contamination. Moreover, this room ensures that the automatic feeder, the milk tank and the water supply for the watering system are protected against frost.



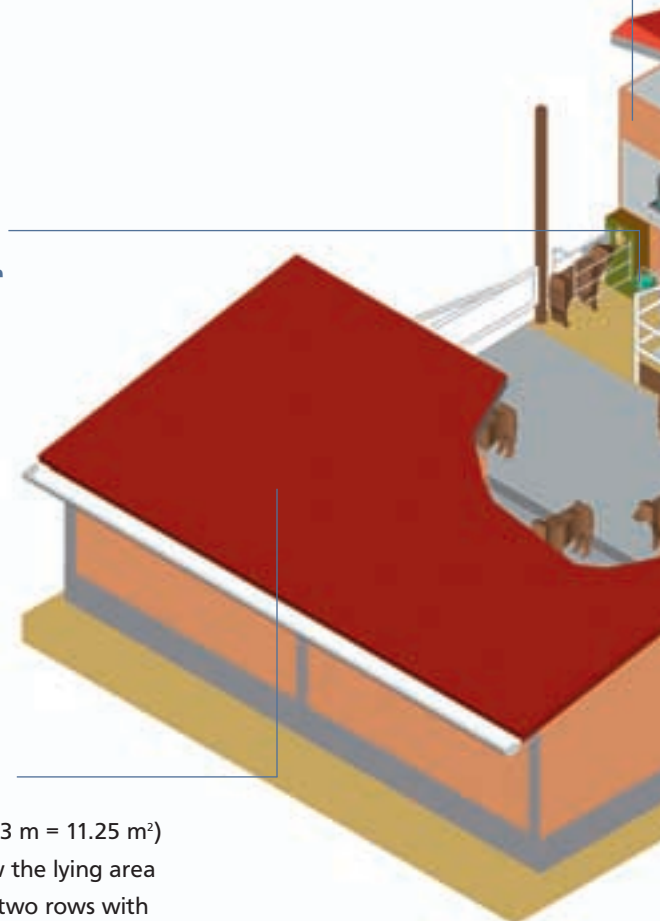
### Feeding Station, Watering Point and Concentrate Feeder

The feeding station and the watering point are located directly next to the function room. The short distance does not require any further protective measures against frost. The concentrate can also be distributed via the feeder which is mounted next to the watering point.



### Lying Area for 10 Calves

Ten calves have one lying area ( $3.75\text{ m} \times 3\text{ m} = 11.25\text{ m}^2$ ) at their disposal. These dimensions allow the lying area to consist of either one bedded area or two rows with five lying boxes each. The insulated roof protects the lying area against condensation and also heat due to solar radiation. A windbreak is available for wintertime. The sidewalls made of PVC-double-skin sheets are durable; the smooth surface facilitates optimum hygienic cleaning.

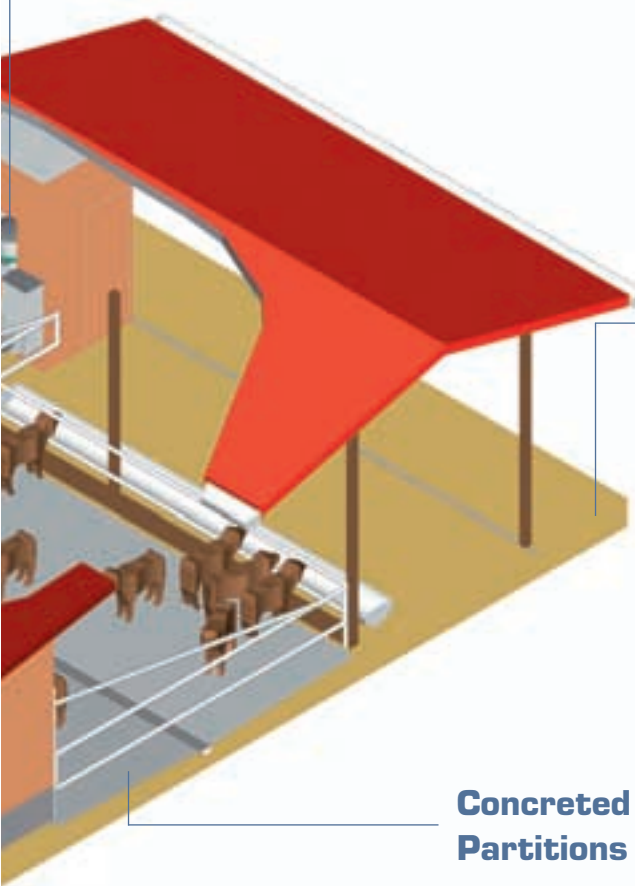


**Rearing Unit**  
**(1 x**



### Automatic Feeder with one Feeding Station

The automatic feeder provides up to 30 calves with feed at one feeding station. From the function room you can easily watch the calves through a window while they are drinking. This allows comfortable operation of the automatic feeder and animal check in all weathers.



### Covered and Drivable Feeding Passage

The roof of the feeding passage is intended to protect the feed and the persons caring for the animals against rain and extreme sunlight. Thanks to the large eaves the calves, too, are kept dry during feeding.



### Concreted Open Yard with Swing Partitions

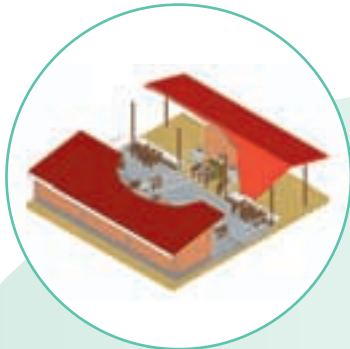
The open yard is divided by swing partitions. During dung removal they are used as barriers to prevent calves from leaving the accommodation area. The open yard can be cleaned every 2 to 3 days by means of the farmyard tractor or manually within a few minutes. The accommodation facilitates temporary dry storage of the straw thus making it immediately available for use.



for 20 Calves  
20)



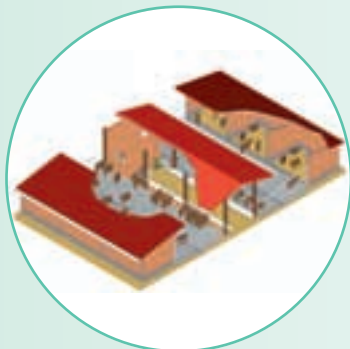
## Modular Construction System for 20 to 120 calves



### Rearing Unit for 30 Calves (1 x 30)

3 lying areas using one side of the feeding passage and 2 feeding stations

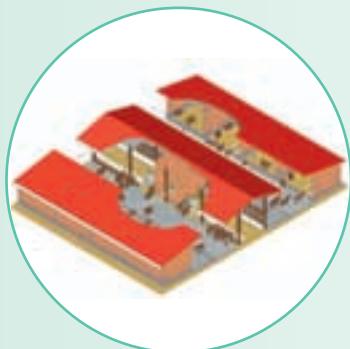
It is advisable to split 30 calves into two groups in case the animals' age difference should be more than four to six weeks. A central swing gate allows you to house and transfer both groups according to the all in/all out system. The group consisting of the older calves is provided with two lying areas.



### Rearing Unit for 60 calves (2 x 30)

6 lying areas using both sides of the feeding passage and 2 feeding stations

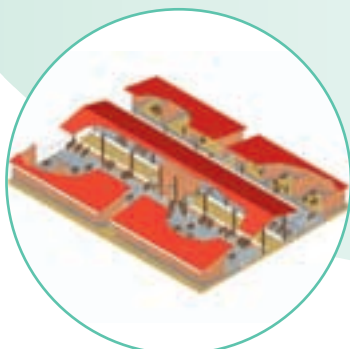
As for 30 calves the rearing unit can be extended cost-effectively through utilisation of both sides of the feeding passage. The maximum productive use of housing and feeding technology is reached with 60 calves.



### Rearing Unit for 80 Calves (2 x 20 x 2)

8 lying areas using both sides of the feeding passage and 4 feeding stations

Up to 80 animals divided into four groups or eight lying areas can be arranged in such a way that one automatic feeder is still able to provide them with feed. Groups consisting of 20 calves are housed according to the all in/all out system.



### Rearing Unit for 120 calves (2 x 30 x 2)

12 lying areas using both sides of the feeding passage and 4 feeding stations

This variant is made of two sections for 60 calves each which are arranged on both sides of the central function room. Two automatic feeders which are connected to two feeding stations each are located in this room. The function room is accessible via the feeding passage or the corridor between the sections.

### **Calf-Friendly – Flexible – Economical**

Based on the plan of the open fronted housing from Riswick, a well known research centre in Germany, the rearing unit is consistently partitioned into the following functional areas: „Lying-Feeding-Walking“. In case of adverse weather, the accommodation area and the covered feeding passage give the animals, the persons caring for them, the feed and the technical equipment protection without reducing the benefits of outdoor housing.

This modular construction system is extendable from 20 to 120 calf places. The animals can be kept in groups of 20 to 30 calves and housed from a few days old.

The concreted open yard ensures good foot growth. Just as for the accommodation area, dung can be easily removed from the open yard by means of a front loader, thus saving time.



### **The Benefits at a Glance**

- Large accommodation area with 1.1 m<sup>2</sup> lying area per calf
- Well-aired lying area which can be easily observed
- Store- and function room for dry milk powder storage and convenient operation of the automatic feeder in all weathers
- Animal/feeding place ratio up to 1:1
- Covered feeding area for all calves
- Covered and drivable feeding passage for easy distribution of dry roughage as well as convenient conditions for animal observations
- Concreted open yard for labour-saving cleaning and good foot growth
- Easy and timesaving dung removal from the accommodation area by means of a farmyard tractor
- Solid construction with high-grade components
- Fast and hygienic cleaning of the smooth plastic walls
- Designed and produced for easy partial self assembly
- Maximum comfort for calves
- Labour saving



## Important Measures of the Functional Areas

			Calf accomodation for ... calves				
			20	30	60	80	120
<b>Whole unit</b>	Length	m	11.0	11.3	19.0	19.0	24.0
	Width	m	7.5	11.0	11.3	15.0	19.0
	Total area (net)	m <sup>2</sup>	83	124	215	285	456
<b>Functional area</b>							
Lying	Number of lying units		2	3	6	8	12
	Available lying area per calf	m <sup>2</sup>	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Feeding	Number of automatic feeders		1	1	1	1	2
	Number of feeding stations		1	1-2	2	4	4
	Feeding passage length	m	6.0	8.3	7.8	10.0	18.5
	Usable trough length	m	5.8	7.9	15.1	19.2	36.2
	Animal/feeding place ratio		1:1	1.1:1	1.2:1	1.3:1	1:1
Walking	Available walking area per calf	m <sup>2</sup>	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9

**If you have any further questions or need a specific individual advice, please get in touch with one of our dealers locally or contact us directly.**

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