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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

Linwood Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – 12pm **Hwy 89 Clinic:** Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY

Orders for Delivery: Please call BEFORE 9:30 am for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service call any clinic number 1-800-663-2941 519-698-2610 519-323-9002

MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

Monday May 22, there will be no delivery service on the Victoria Day holiday. Both clinics will be open in the morning. Veterinarians will be on call for emergency services.

HEIFER GROWTH - An Important Building Block for your Dairy Herd

Traditionally calf and heifer health has taken a backseat in our day to day management on our dairy farms as we tend to focus on keeping our milking and transition cows healthy and producing well. If we take a step back and ask ourselves, “How do I get a well grown heifer that calves out by 24 months old, milks better than her herdmates, transitions with minimal problems and breeds back within 100 days?” This may sound almost impossible but it is certainly achievable. The answer is to spend some time, effort and money on keeping our calves and heifers healthy and growing to the best of their potential. The question is where do you focus your time and money when it comes to calf and heifer growth? To start we need more information.

Step 1: How are my calves and heifers doing currently?

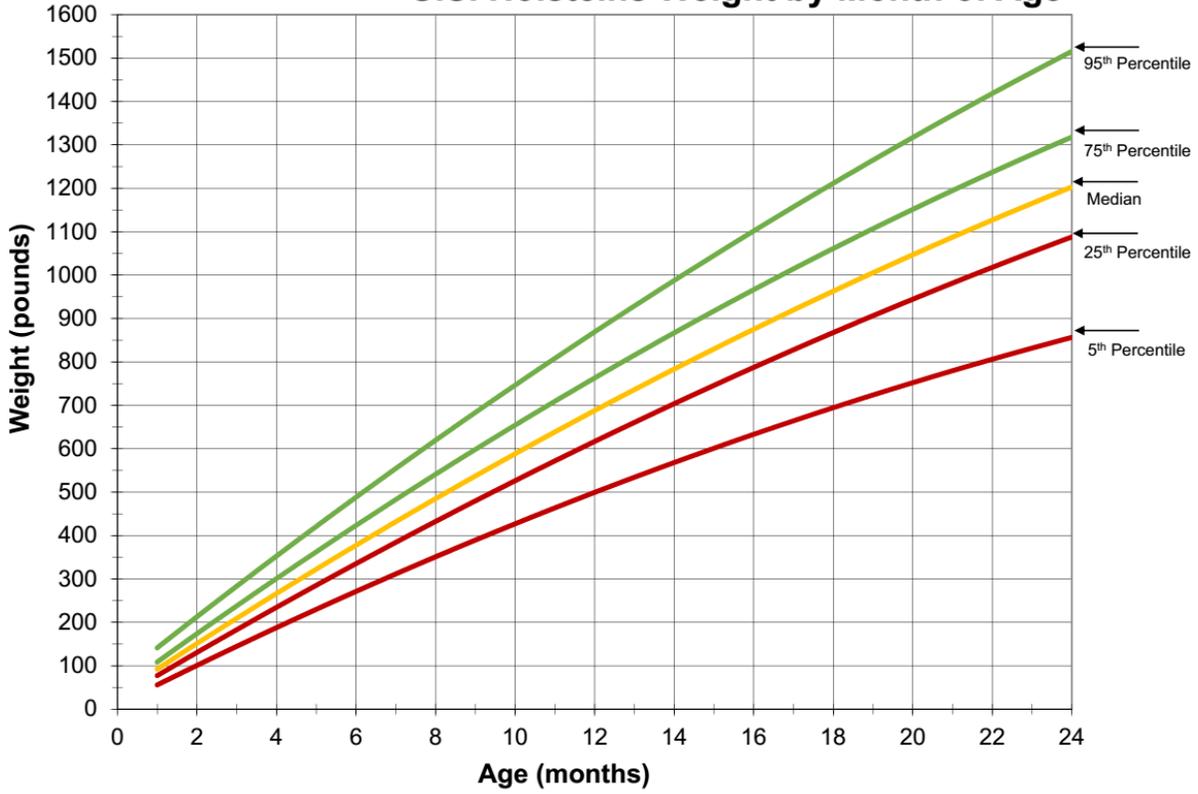
To Achieve Step 1: Measure height and weight of your calves and heifers and compare it to previous years and/or national averages.

If you don't have the tools or time our Registered Veterinary Technicians would be happy to provide this service. And we'll graph it so you can easily see how your calves and heifers are doing.

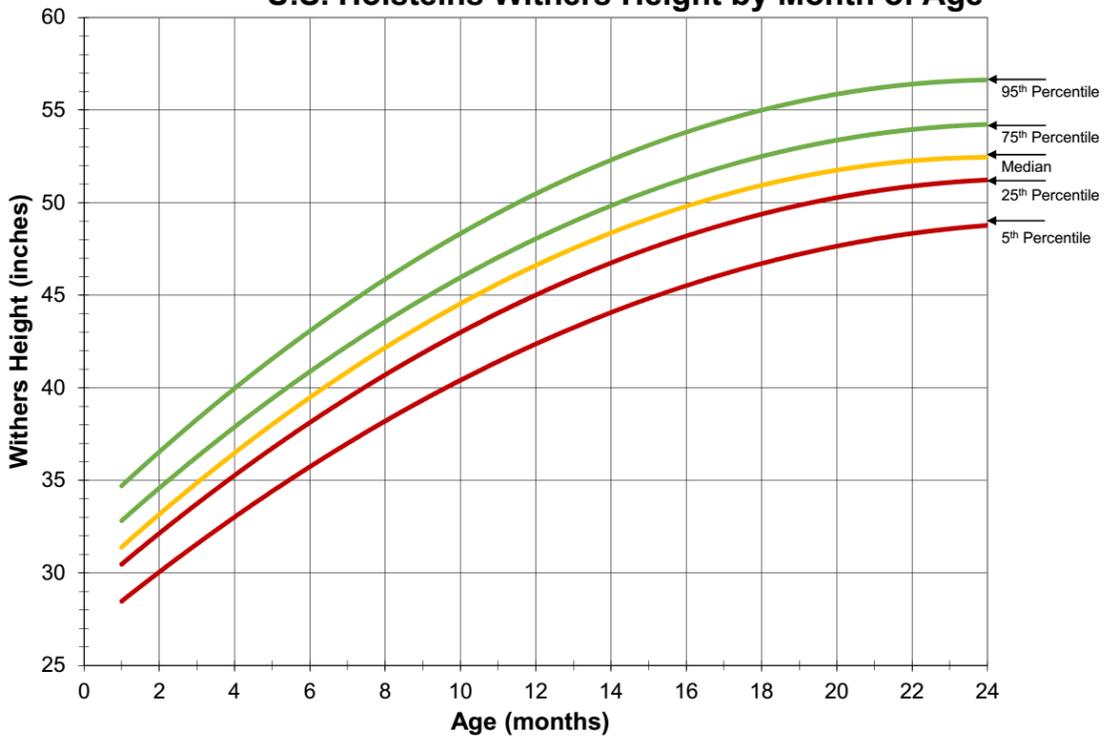
Folowing, are some Holstein & Jersey Growth Charts:



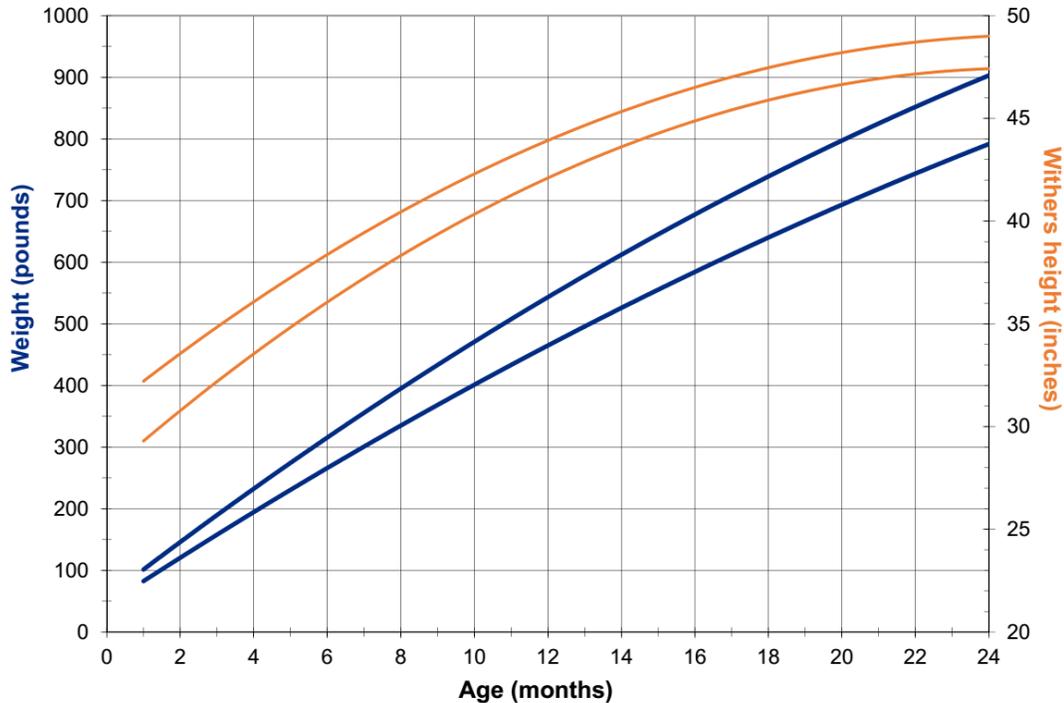
U.S. Holsteins Weight by Month of Age



U.S. Holsteins Withers Height by Month of Age



Jersey Heifer Growth



Step 2: Where can I improve?

To Achieve Step 2: Look at the height and weight charts with your youngstock plotted on them. Is there an area where your calves lag behind or growth stalls out?

Common areas where calves and heifers lose potential growth and a few reasons why:

- Between birth and weaning
 - Due to disease- scours and pneumonia
 - Ventilation & ammonia levels
 - Nutrition
 - Inadequate colostrum intake
- Weaning
 - Improper rumen development
 - Stress at weaning (vaccinating, dehorning, moving at weaning)
- After pen moves or moving into another barn
 - Change of environment
 - Change of ration
- After breeding
 - Heifer growth stalls out but heifers keep putting weight on- increased BCS
- Overall nutrition, ventilation and bedding always play a role.

Step 3: How can I improve the specific area identified?

To Achieve Step 3: Talk with your herd Veterinarian and your Nutritionist.

Raising healthy, well grown heifers will directly affect your bottom line and improve your future milk production. Give us a call and let us help you produce more milk in the future!