



# Animals in Extensive Production Systems

VETS30031 / VETS90123



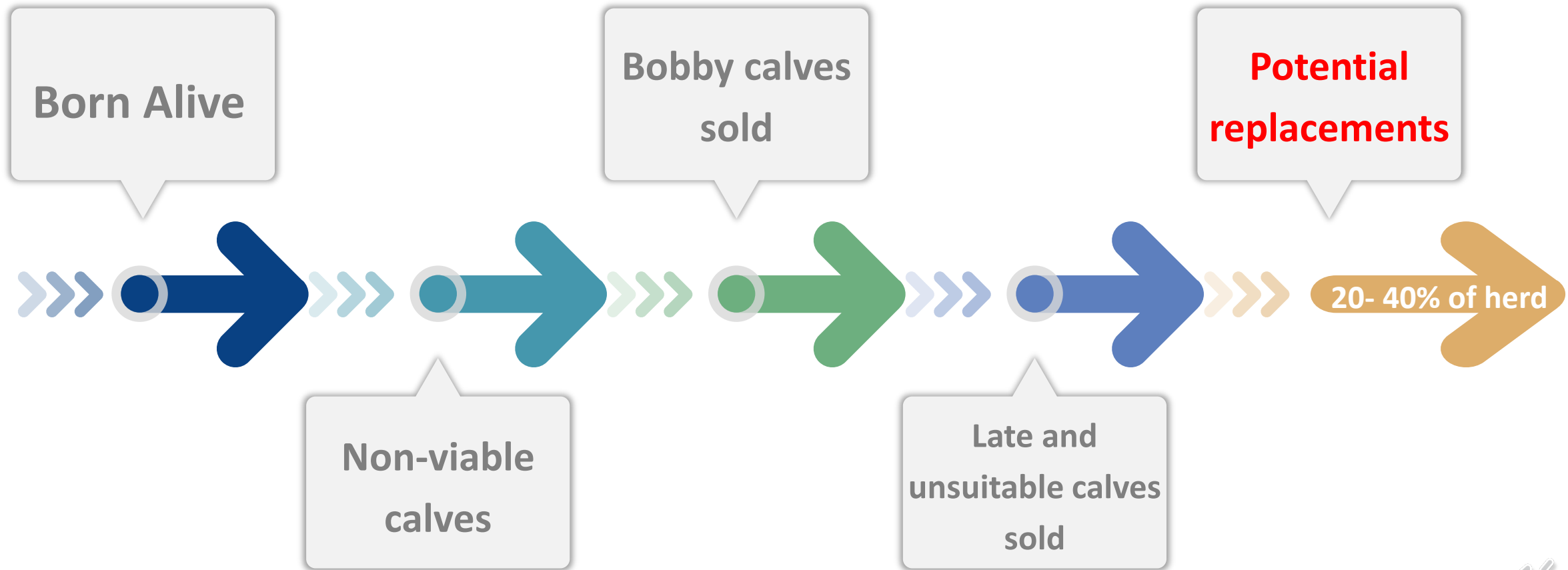
## Lifecycle of a dairy cow – Calf rearing



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# Fate of calves born on a dairy farm



# Successful calf rearing

Colostrum

Nutrition

Housing/Shelter





## 2. Adequate nutrition



### Milk

As little as  
possible, but  
not less!  
10% BW



### Concentrates

Grain or  
pellets  
Causes  
rumen  
development



### Roughage

Hay or silage  
Poorer  
quality

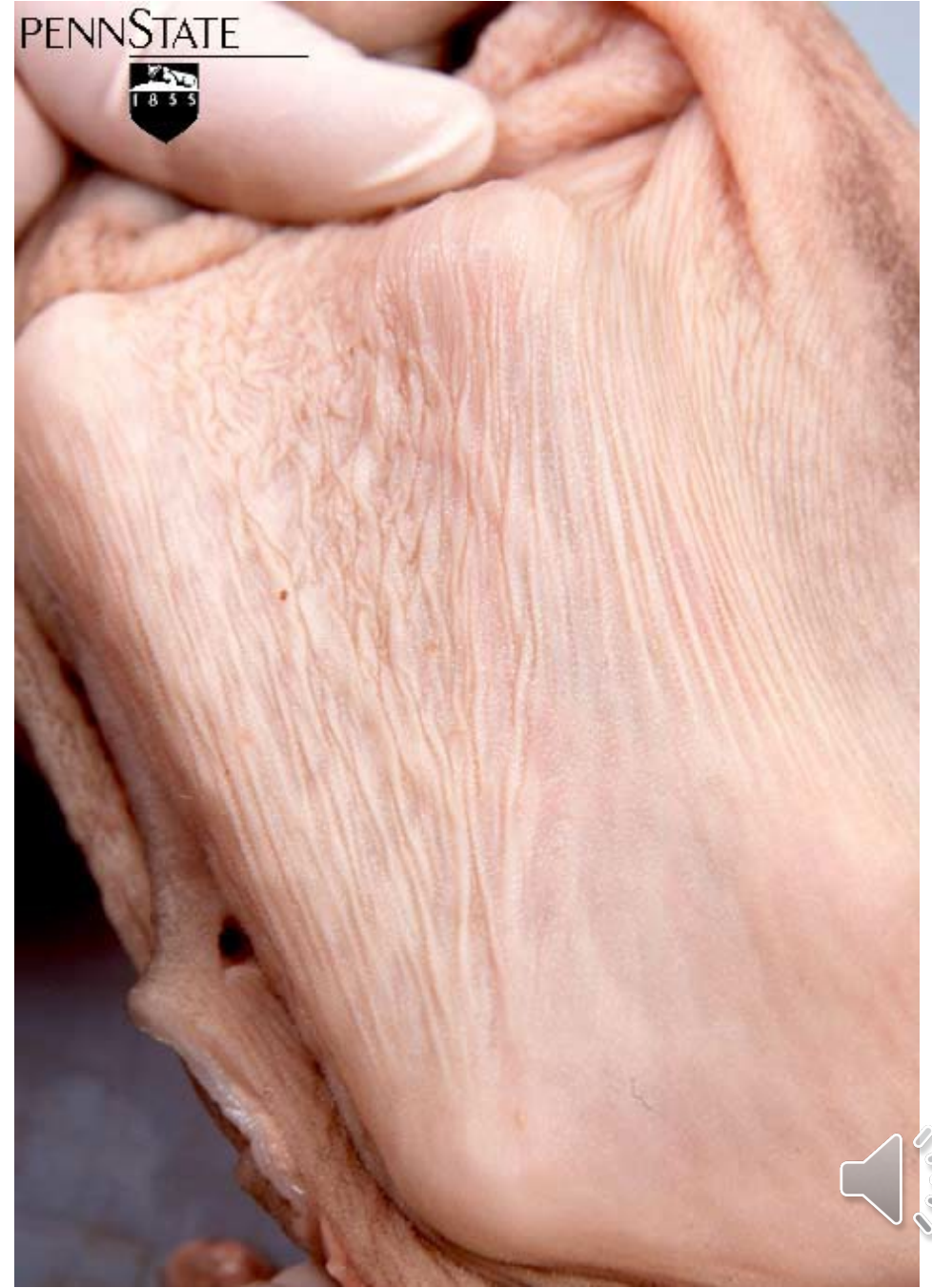


### Water

Ad lib  
High off  
ground



**Calves must have a developed rumen at weaning!**



# Weaning off Milk

You can wean calves off milk when

- Individual calves are eating 0.75-1kg concentrates
- Small groups are averaging 1-1.25kg per day

The Age of weaning is determined by the calf rearing setup

- Ranges from 4 weeks up.

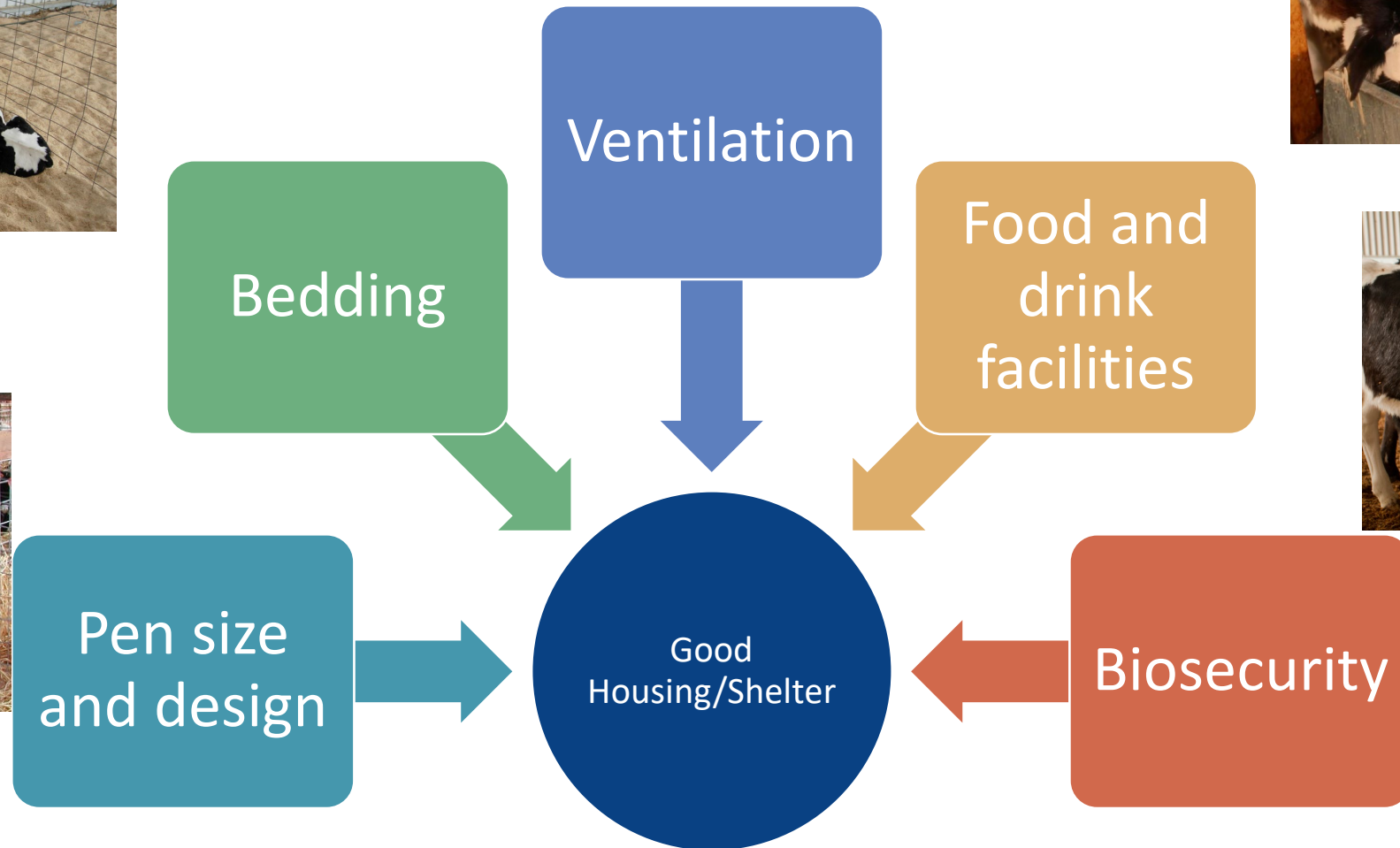
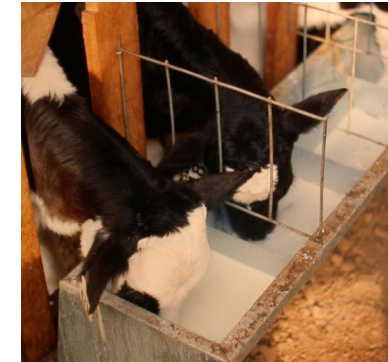
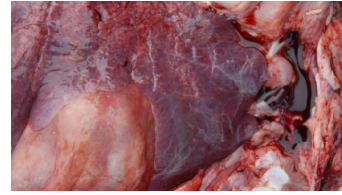




# 1kg Dry Matter



# Housing/Shelter – clean comfortable environment





# When it goes wrong



# Reducing the risk of disease

## ***Minimise problems at parturition***

- Dam nutrition
  - Colostrum production (5 wks pre-calving)
  - Affects calf size and viability
- Pre-calving vaccinations
  - Presence of Ab's during dry period = Ab in colostrum
- Sire selection and mating
  - Calving ease
  - Heifer size at first mating (260kg Jersey; 340kg Holstein)

## ***Support development of healthy calves***

- Colostrum
- Adequate nutrition
- Hygienic environment
- Minimise stress: Mixing, transport, changes in feed





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## AEPS – DAIRY WEEK 1

