Effects of an anti-suckling (nose flap) device on septum injuries in beef calves
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INTRODUCTION

NOSE FLAP WEANING

Plastic flaps are inserted into the nose and held in place by the calves’ septum; these are kept in for 4-7 days.

WHY
Low stress weaning method where the nose flap acts as a barrier from the dam’s udder; calves are weaned from milk before physical separation.

METHODS

n = 42  n = 40

Day 0  Day 7  Day 13

Before flap  Flap removal  6 d after flap removal

RESULTS

PHOTO SCORING

Evidence of Damage (y/n)
The tissue in the site where the flap rests is a different color than surrounding nostril; natural variation in nostril color (e.g. spots) are not counted as wound-related difference.

Blood Present (y/n)
Bright red liquid present in the nostril area, either in or around the site where the flap would rest.

Visible Impression (y/n)
Edges of the wound are clearly raised or sunken, distinct from surrounding tissue. Can be an entire or partial circle or oval.

There were no injuries in calves without flaps.
There was an effect of flap presence on all 3 characteristics ($P < 0.001$).

All calves that wore the flap for 7d have injuries, these injuries persist 1 week later.