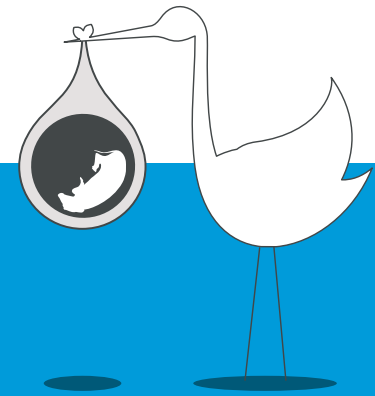




## AfiAct II Calving Alert Service



### Better management of calving – a matter of life or death

#### **Dystocia damages – risk to newborn calves and to the cow**

Calving is a stressful event for a cow, quite possibly the most difficult event she experiences. Dairy farmers strive to do their utmost to make this event as smooth and easy as possible to improve her welfare.

Since difficult calving (dystocia) is prevalent in dairy cows and associated with increased calf mortality and morbidity around calving, accuracy in calving timing allows farmers to be better prepared for this event, ensuring greater success.

Dystocia also adversely affects fertility and increases the risk of involuntary culling. Timely attention of the farmer is therefore a critical component of improved cow health and welfare, resulting in smoother and easier calving and better herd performance.

#### **Dystocia (difficult calving) occurs in:**

- 28-50% of first pregnancies
- 11-30% of later pregnancies

#### **The challenge of timely intervention**

Knowing exactly when it is calving time is a key factor in ensuring successful calving with minimal harm to the calf and the cow.

Accurate calving detection is also vital to the success of early calf treatment. For example, the success of colostrum feeding is directly linked to how soon the feeding is received after birth.

While it is possible to identify when calving starts by observation, a dedicated crew is an expensive solution. As a result, a calving will be often only be noticed at a late stage when one of the following events occur:

- Calving has already started and it is too late to move the expecting cow to the calving area
- A dystocia event – and the farmer wasn't there in time to help
- The calf was already born but early treatment is provided only hours later

#### **Dystocia poses severe risks for:**

- Increased calf mortality
- Risk of retained placenta
- Uterine diseases
- Long term effect – productivity, fertility

### **ATTENTION**

The service is officially released for cows only (1st lactation and on).  
The service for heifers is available as part of a research.

## AfiAct II: Afimilk's effective calving alert service

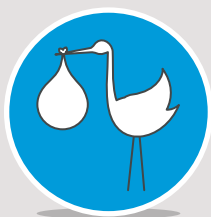
AfiAct II's calving alert service is using 24/7 cow behavior monitoring analyzed by advanced algorithms implemented in the AfiFarm management software. As a result, it provides alerts with high accuracy (typically, the actual calving takes place within 4 hours from the received alert). Although in some cases a calving event can be missed, a false alarm is extremely rare (under 10%). The timeline for the system's alerts is as follows:

1. First alerts – Alerts the farmer to when calving is about to start. He or she can then prepare by moving the expecting cow to the calving area. High risk calving, such as twins or cows that are inducted, is noted in order to arrange for special care.
2. Second alerts – Alerts the farmer to prolonged calving and the risk of dystocia to determine whether intervention is needed. Preparing early for intervention may save both the calf and the cow.
3. After calving – The newborn calf must now be moved to a safe environment and fed with colostrum milk. The cow must be taken care of as well.



### Approaching calving

Move the expecting cow from the dry pen to the calving area



### Calving starts

Verify that calving progresses well



### Difficult calving (Dystocia)

Timely intervention saves the cow and calf



### Congrats! new calf was born

Move the newborn to a safe environment, feed it with colostrum and check the cow

## A simple solution for peace of mind

A calving event poses a high risk for the cow and the newborn, and high quality management of this event is one of the factors that can have great contribution to farm performance. Accurate and timely calving detection is vital, and this is exactly what Afimilk's Calving Alert Service now provides. If you are an AfiAct II customer, simply place AfiTag II sensors on the dry cows and your employees will receive SMS or Email alerts, usually with close proximity to the time of the calving event.

This service will help you improve preparation before calving, increase the chances you'll be there in time to help a calving with complications, and provide treatment to a newborn as early as possible – resulting in reduced labor costs, fewer deaths and complications and increased future fertility.

Happy calving!