

## Research project IZS VE 10/11

**Monitoring of the welfare status of calves and heifers in dairy farms located in the Veneto region**

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The dairy calves and heifers receive poor attention by the farmers since they are not productive and they represent therefore only a cost in terms of labor, housing and feeding. Their health and welfare status are rarely considered by the farmers even if they are fundamental for their long-term impact on the productivity of the future dairy cows.

The objects of the project are therefore:

- to monitor the health and welfare status of the young stock in large dairy herds in the Veneto region;
- to identify risk factors which can impair the health and welfare status of calves and heifers;
- to develop practical solutions/ recommendation for the farmer on the basis of the outcomes of the survey and the risk factors investigation, to improve welfare of young stock.