Recommendations from Danish organic dairy farmers and their advisors in how to prevent milk fever

1) When your dry cows are grazing it is important they are grazing on a field without clover either as:

   ✓ Restrictive grazing
   ✓ Extensive grazing

2) It`s important that cows on grass are supported with supplementary feed and dry cows minerals, either:

   ✓ The last 7-14 days before calving
   ✓ Or during the entire grazing season

3) It`s important to make a special dry cows ration, and mix the feed in a mixer wagon, and further more to adjust the ration when ever changing dry cows feed composition

   ✓ Use god quality dry cows minerals
   ✓ Avoid legumes
   ✓ Limit the amount a grass silage, replace with yellow feed ingredients

4) Dry cows must be housed under good conditions

   ✓ There has to be ample space in the calving area
   ✓ One feeding space per cow
   ✓ Dry cows and heifers in separate calving areas

5) When you move your cows, it`s important to avoid the cow getting stressed

   ✓ Move either 7-10 days before calving or as close to calving as possible
   ✓ Move at least to cows at the same time

6) Calving can take place indoor or outdoor, but always need your full attention

- ✓ Look at the cow!
- ✓ Let the cow calve in a place you pass several times during the day

7) After calving

- ✓ Let the cow and her calf spend at least 24 hours together isolated from other cows
- ✓ Don 't milk third parity and older cows the first 24 hours after calving. If needed, only milk to the calf.

8) Pay attention to third parity and older cows. They have increased risk of getting milk fever. A good advice is to offer lukewarm water added a calcium product to the cow right after calving

- ✓ It`s important that your routines include extra focus on older cows around calving and to have specific procedure in handling them

9) You should use the body condition score as the basis for the decision of time for dry off. Avoid

- ✓ Fat cows
- ✓ That dry cows loose or gain weight during the dry cow period