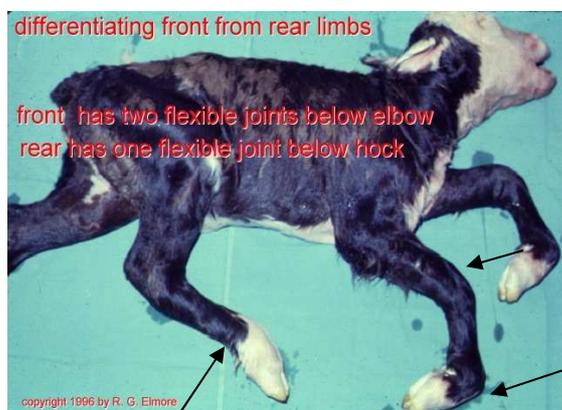


QUICK CALVING TIPS.



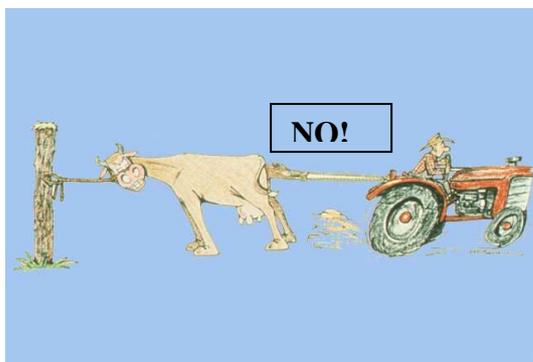
One of the most common difficulties that is encountered when assisting a cow that is having trouble calving is are you dealing with front legs or back legs? This is because the elbow joint and the hock joint feel identical. The simple rule of thumb for differentiating front from back is front legs have two flexible joints below the elbow, while back legs only have one below the hock.

Pulling a calf out with leg ropes or chains can have its risks. Excessive force can result in broken bones or damaged joints. The correct method for attaching ropes or chains to the legs is shown in the picture.



Step 1. The first loop should be placed above the carpal (wrist) joint and tightened.

Step 2. A half hitch is then made between the hoof and the carpal joint. This ensures that the pressure from the pull is spread around the joint and not onto it.



Believe it or not, but there is a limit to the amount of force that should be used when pulling a calf out. The greater the force the more chance of serious injury to the cow. Two people pulling on a pulley system or leg ropes is probably sufficient to deliver most calves. It is not a good idea to use motorbikes or tractors. If there is no obvious problem with the calf then call the vet as there are some tricks to getting them out that don't require you getting a hernia from straining too hard.

As the value of cows have increased, getting the vet out to calve a cow that you are having problems with is well worth the investment. The earlier that we get involved in difficult calvings, the more likelihood there is of a successful outcome.