

## COW BIRTHS - Delayed live report



May 31, 2009 - cow named "Whiteny". We were practically right there. After the lunch-picnic at the farm, Ador's 11 year old son was practicing on his dad's motorcycle when there was a commotion; we thought he had fallen down. Turns out a cow had just given birth. First pic shows most of us gathering around the cow. Second pic is

about 4 minutes later with the calf still dripping wet. The mother kept licking it for a good 15 minutes. Third pic after about 10 minutes shows the calf (a female) starting to stand. Fourth pic is the all-well sign; she started suckling, 25 minutes later. Fifth pic is late in the afternoon 5 hours later, and both mother and calf look serene.

June 1, 2009 - cow named "Darling". All the signs were evident, such as the cow was straining, fluids were running, so we started a vigil. William, the argi-vet, was concerned because this was the cow's first birth.



Left pic shows William ready with his plastic glove in in case the cow needed help. By 4 pm, with nothing happening, he left for town and promised to be back in an hour. Then the bag of water came out (center) and the toes of the calf started coming out (right). This cow was giving birth standing up! Most do it laying down. We text'd William.



Jun, the farm hand, runs to lend a hand. Left and center pics show how he becomes literally a cow hand. The calf lay immobile for a minute or two, and I had visions of having to grab it by the hind legs, slapping its behind just like what an ob-gyn does to get the newly born shrieking - and breathing - but I just let nature take its course. I really did not think it would moo. The mother cow started licking it vigorously, and a few moments later, it stirred, and a few minutes later, was standing. William arrived soon after and said the placenta should come off soon, and if not, he'd induce it by a shot tomorrow.



Left pic, one and a half months later, the two calves (white) are already eating grass, but will be suckling until almost a year more.

The brown calf is 45 days older. Not shown is the first farm-born calf at 5 months. Neither of them had a camera coverage birth.

Danny Gil  
July 23, 2009