

## UNIT: THE CALF – HEALTH AND WELFARE

### STAFF

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Unit is to illustrate how the management of a calf in early life has a major impact on its health and performance later in life for calves reared on both :

- Artificial rearing system
- Natural rearing system

The major diseases involved fall into the following categories :

- Joint ill
- Scours
- Pneumonia

On completion of the Unit students will be aware of the symptoms, causes, prevention and treatment of these health problems, the importance of routine inspection and prompt action.

### KEY WORDS

- Joint ill
- Scours
- Pneumonia
- Parasites
  
- Observation and diagnosis
- Treatment
- Prevention – Health Planning
  - Nutrition – colostrum
  - Hygiene – at birth and during early life

- Ventilation and avoidance of over crowding
- Avoidance of stress – operations such as dis-budding, castration, worming, weaning or mixing of groups
- Sourcing of purchased calves – from few, known sources

## RESOURCES

- Fact sheet
- **Defnyddiau Mary ar iechyd / afiechyd mewn lloi**
- The following information sources
  - EBLEX (2007) Beef Action for Profit – 20 – Better Returns from Improving Calf Survival
  - EBLEX (2007) Beef Action for Profit – 22 – Better Returns from Tackling Calf Pneumonia
  - EBLEX (2007) Beef Diseases Directory
  - EBLEX (2010) Better Returns from Checking Purchased Stock
  - HCC (2007) Herd Health Planning – Pneumonia

## LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Prepare commentary for video (Mary)

OR

Prepare a simple Health Plan to prevent / control the incidence of scours OR pneumonia