

UNIT : THE BEEF COW – SYSTEMS

INTRODUCTION

A number of options are available depending on the

- Calving date
 - Spring
 - Summer
 - Autumn

	Spring	Summer	Autumn
Calving	Jan - Apr	May - Aug	Sep - Dec
Bulling	Apr - Jun	Jul - Nov	Dec – Mar
Weaning	Sep - Dec	Jan - Apr	May - Aug

- Sales
 - Weaned calves – sold at 6-9 months of age to store cattle buyers and finishers immediately after weaning
 - Store cattle – kept for an additional summer or winter after weaning and sold as 15-18 months of age
 - Finished cattle
 - weaned and put on a store cattle system for a summer or winter before being finished indoors or off grass at 18-24 months of age – heifers and steers
 - weaned directly onto a finishing ration – usually bulls

These choices have major impact on :

- Resources – esp building
- Feeding regimes

- Health and fertility

AIMS

To produce a weaned calf (every 12 months) that is :

- Healthy
- Well grown
- Kept to high welfare standards

To maintain cow :

- Body condition
- Health
- Fertility