

UNIT : THE CALF – REARING SYSTEMS

STAFF

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Unit is to highlight the importance of managing the calving period to ensure calf survival.

On completion of the Unit students will be able to describe the key aspects of a successful calving.

KEY WORDS

KEY ASPECTS OF SUCCESSFUL CALVING

- AIMING FOR EASE OF CALVING – Choice of cow and bull, cow body condition at calving and cow nutrition.
- CALVING FACILITIES – bedded, dry and disinfected
- SUPERVISION AT CALVING – problems must be dealt with promptly – equipment, intervention, veterinary assistance
- EARLY LIFE - navel dressing and colostrum

METABOLIC DISORDERS

- Milk fever
- Hypomagnesaemia (staggers)
- Ketosis (acetoanaemia)

RESOURCES

HCC (2007) Making the Most of your Suckler Cows

LEARNING ACTIVITIES