

## Unit 3: The causes of ill health in farm animals

### Teacher's notes

#### Introduction

This theory session will take the learner through the **causes of ill health** in farm animals, classifying them into groups. They are:

- harmful organisms - pathogens
- the animal's environment
- physical damage
- nutritional factors
- metabolic disorders
- stress
- chemicals
- allergies
- inherited problems

It will move on to introduce the concept of **pre-disposing factors** and the role of the stockperson in minimising these factors.

The session could begin with images of sick animals to stimulate discussion in the group as to the main causes of ill health.

#### Key words

Prophylactic  
Pre-disposing factors  
Pathogens

#### Resources

- Student's notes
- Video footage of healthy animals in Unit 2
- Relevant websites

#### Learning activities to generate evidence that learning has taken place

- Learner activity: classification of common diseases into pathogenic groups.