

## **Unit 9: Main metabolic disorders**

### **Teacher's notes**

#### **Introduction**

A metabolic disease or disorder is the name given to a group of illnesses in cattle and sheep that are caused by the imbalance of the inputs to the animal compared to the expected outputs.

It is important to note that even though it can be called a disease there is no pathogen involved.

This session should take the learner through the main reasons for metabolic disorders and a description of the main cattle and sheep conditions on UK farms.

It should move on to treatment and then a discussion on prevention methods.

#### **Key words**

Metabolic  
Production disease  
Hypocalcaemia  
Milk fever  
Hypomagnesemia  
Rumen acidosis  
Acetonemia  
Fatty liver syndrome  
Pregnancy toxaemia  
Twin lamb disease  
Ketone  
Ketosis

#### **Resources**

- Factsheet
- Relevant websites. For individual conditions it is very important to view the websites.

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

- Word search and quiz.