

C-C.7 Bovine Youngstock Rearing and Infectious Diseases

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Click [here](#) to view the module content as outlined by the RCVS.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to enable the candidate to develop comprehensive understanding of the management of youngstock in beef and dairy herds, and the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of young cattle. The candidate will be able to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this module successful candidates should be able to:

1. critically evaluate the husbandry, management and monitoring of diseases in youngstock in cattle in the UK, and the role of the veterinary surgeon in heifer and beef rearing programmes;
2. apply evidence-based medicine, reflection on practice and sound clinical reasoning processes to the aetiology, pathology, diagnosis, differential diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and control of common and emerging diseases affecting beef and dairy youngstock in the UK;
3. critically evaluate the legislation relating to youngstock rearing and infectious diseases and how it relates to the health, management and welfare of cattle and food production in the UK;
4. make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate their conclusions in the form of a herd health plan or youngstock rearing strategy to the farm owner or manager both verbally and in the form of professional reports;
5. critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered and how the literature can be used to inform practice.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 4 study units, each containing lecture and reading material supported by weekly interactions in the form of asynchronous case-based discussions, other discussions and/or synchronous journal clubs/literature critiques.

Study Unit 1: The Artificially reared calf – Birth to Weaning

- Problems at birth, passive immunity and colostrum
- Common calf diseases: especially alimentary and respiratory diseases; their epidemiology, recognition and treatment, including rational drug use, prevention and control

Study Unit 2: The Dairy Heifer – Weaning to Calving

- Management of calves at weaning, post weaning diseases
- Normal targets for growth
- Common diseases at grass: their epidemiology, recognition, treatment, prevention and control
- Common diseases in housed animals: their epidemiology, recognition, treatment, prevention and control
- Puberty and factors controlling its onset, weight and condition score at service
- Reproductive problems, congenital abnormalities, acyclicity, poor pregnancy rates

Study Unit 3: Suckled Calf Production

- Management of replacement heifers for optimum fertility
- Common diseases of suckled calves: diagnosis, treatment and prevention

Study Unit 4: Common and Emerging Diseases

- Epidemiology, recognition, treatment, prevention and control of the common and emerging diseases including, IBR, BVD, Lepto, Neospora, Salmonella, Johne's disease, TB, Schmallenburg, Bluetongue.
- Herd economic assessment of disease and disease prevention; herd health preventative medicine schemes
- Recording systems for monitoring disease: analysis of health records and targets for disease incidence

Assessment Strategy

- **2 x 1500-word reflective case reports (60%)**
On a topic related to the relevant study units, students are required to reflect on their own practice, using evidence-based veterinary medicine to inform their reflection. Reflective case reports are written following the format of published case reports in the veterinary literature. The case report component of the assessment must be passed for successful completion of the module, and is non-compensatory with other assessments, however there is compensation between case reports. Case reports are also submitted to a discussion board for critique and discussion by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element.
- **1 x 1-hour open book examination (30%)**
Based around clinical scenarios/cases, relevant to the module study units.
- **1 x written journal critique (not more than 500 words) and group discussion (10%)**
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. 2-4 students critique the same paper, and then discuss their critiques and any variations with the group, and the tutor and the students then hold a discussion of all papers. These are assessed on the submitted critique as well as the discussion.

Assessments are submitted sequentially with feedback being given between assessments to aid in the development of writing skills.

PLEASE NOTE: It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to sufficient appropriate cases where you were the primary decision maker to produce adequate material for the module. This may not be possible with some internship positions. You must also be aware of any limitations of your facilities that may make the accumulation of appropriate cases difficult or impossible.