

C-C.4 Bovine Nutrition, Husbandry and Lactogenesis

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – Institute of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

The following outlines the modular content as set out by the RCVS.

Nutrition

- Nutritional requirements of cows (Dairy and Beef) and how they are calculated
- Characteristics of the common foodstuffs and their visual assessment
- Feeding systems for youngstock and adult stock
- Grassland management, forage crop production, harvesting and storage
- Nutritional problems: their recognition, treatment, prevention and control
- Monitoring of nutrition in the Dairy and Beef cow (using milk yield and quality, cow signalment, BCS, and faecal assessment)
- Relationship of Nutrition and Fertility in Dairy and Beef cows

Beef Finishing Systems (Dairy bred and suckled beef calves)

- Finishing systems for beef cattle from weaning to slaughter – nutrition and management
- Target growth rates and carcass classification
- Common nutritional diseases associated with different rearing systems

Housing Systems

- Housing systems available, relative costs, advantages and disadvantages
- Space and ventilation requirements for Dairy and Beef animals (all ages)

Lactogenesis

- Milk synthesis and its control
- Factors affecting milk yield and composition

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to enable the candidate to develop comprehensive and systematic understanding of nutrition, husbandry and lactogenesis in cattle herds. 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 the module, successful candidates should be able to:

1. demonstrate a systematic understanding of the husbandry and management of beef and dairy cattle in the UK, and critically evaluate the relative merits of the systems used;
2. demonstrate an in depth knowledge of the principles of bovine nutrition, husbandry and lactogenesis;
3. demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the legislation relating to the health, management and welfare of cattle and food production in the UK;
4. demonstrate the ability to systematically evaluate bovine nutrition and management practices; make sound judgements in the absence of complete data and communicate their conclusions to the farm owner or manager both verbally and in the form of professional reports;
5. review and constructively criticise current literature in the subject area.

Assessment Strategy

3 x reflective case reports (1500 words), 1 x short answer question and/or MCQ test and 1 x journal critique/journal club presentation (pass/fail)

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.