



Internal Parasites

E.g. lungworms, hookworms, kidney worms: these lead to anaemia which results in the calf becoming lethargic and emaciated.

External Parasites

E.g. Ticks, mites and fungi: These can cause poor growth and tick infestations can result in tick fever and can also cause anemia

CLASSIFICATION OF CATTLE

Cow calf - female cattle under a year old

Heifer –mature female cattle that has not produced a calf

Cow- mature female cattle that has produced a calf

Bull calf - male cattle under a year old

Bull - mature male cattle over a year old



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE &
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**RESEARCH &
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**CALF
MANAGEMENT**



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CALF MANAGEMENT

-Calves must receive colostrum for the first 3 days after birth. This contains proteins, vitamins A, D and E and antibodies, which confer passive immunity. Colostrum also acts as a laxative to help the calf pass their first stool, (known as meconium).

-At birth, the calf's navel is treated against fly infestation and bacterial infection, by spraying with iodine solution.

-Calves are given vitamin A & D injections, and are ear-marked and/or tattooed at 3 days old.

-Clean water is made available for all calves and they are introduced to calf starter ration and hay at 3 days old.

-Vaccination against blackleg and other clostridial diseases is carried out at 2-3 months of age

-Weaning is carried out at 10-12 weeks and calves are dewormed at weaning.

-After weaning, calves are sometimes branded on the left side, with the same number as the ear notch and/or the tattoo.

-Disbudding is also carried out after weaning.

- Calf pens should be washed and disinfected twice per day and are also white-limed to kill bacterial microorganisms.

-Calves are housed in individual calf pens for 3 months after which they are kept in groups.

-After six months, male and female calves should be housed separately.

MAJOR CALF DISEASES

Calf mortality is generally highest in the first month of life due to pneumonia and diarrhoea (calf scours). Calves must be housed under warm, clean conditions to avoid sickness. Calves must also be kept clean and dry to avoid fungal infections.

Scours

-can be caused by infections (bacteria, viruses or parasites), or occur due to stress and poor nutrition (e.g. overfeeding).

Navel ill

-enlarged, swollen navel due to infection, and/or screwworm infestation.

Joint ill

-can result from navel ill and is characterized by swollen joints and fever.

Pneumonia

-occurs as a result of an infection leading to signs such as: congestion of the respiratory tract, runny nose, cough, and heavy breathing with head down.