

Reference Number	C-C.4
Module Title	Bovine Nutrition, Husbandry and Lactogenesis
Category and Value	C – 10 credits
Study Hours	100

Introduction

The focus of this module is bovine nutrition, husbandry and lactogenesis. It is recommended that candidates complete Foundations of Advanced Veterinary Practice (A-FAVP.1) prior to this module, as they provide essential postgraduate training in literature critique and evidence-based medicine and fundamental training in reflective and evidence-based writing, and clinical reasoning, required for case-based assessments.

The candidate is also expected to build on the foundation skills developed when undertaking the A and B modules, and to demonstrate progression towards advanced practitioner skills. The candidate will be able to evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

This is an optional module for those wishing to obtain a Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Cattle).

Aims

The aim of this module is to:

1. enable the candidate to develop comprehensive and systematic understanding of nutrition, husbandry and lactogenesis in cattle herds and apply this understanding to farms under their care.
2. to critically evaluate their own standards of practice and develop strategies for continuous improvement in the future.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this module students should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate the husbandry and management of beef and dairy cattle in the UK, and the relative merits of the systems used.
2. Critically evaluate the legislation relating to the health, management and welfare of cattle and food production in the UK.
3. Critically analyse data sets related to bovine nutrition, husbandry and lactogenesis and communicate conclusions to a farm owner or manager both verbally and in the form of professional reports.
4. Perform an evaluation of the nutrition and husbandry systems practised on farm and communicate conclusions and advice to a farm owner or manager both verbally and in the form of professional reports.

5. Critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases and use the literature to inform practice.

Module Content

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

Assessment Strategy

Module providers are responsible for deciding on assessment strategies and methods, subject to accreditation by RCVS.

