

SUCKLER COW SCHEME EVENTS AND RULES

Event 1 Calf Registration

The requirements for the recording of calf birth registrations include the recording of the Sire of the calf and the calving survey for the calving (as per the current Animal Events process.)

Event 2 Disbudding

The disbudding (de-horning) event date must be recorded on each calf. The rules of the scheme indicate that this date must be **within 21 days of birth**. However, the event does not have to be notified until the notification of Event 4 (Introduction of meal feeding, see below).

Things to note about this event:

- By law, if a farmer disbuds a calf after 14 days of age, he must use a Vet
- If the buds aren't up, then they obviously can't be disbudded. Allowance will be made for a certain number of calves to be disbudded after 21 days of age.
- The event is not recorded for polled animals.

The system should be as friendly as possible to ensure the farmer does not make any errors in recording the dates of this event.

Event 3 Castration

The castration event will obviously only apply to male animals. It must be carried out **at least 4 weeks before weaning**, or at least two weeks after weaning. **It is illegal to castrate an animal over 6 months of age.**

Things to note about this event

If a male is being sold 'whole', the recording of the castration event is not required.

Event 4 Introduction of Meal Feeding

The weaning process is a key part of the Suckler Scheme. The date meal is introduced to a calf must be recorded and submitted **within 7 days of the event**.

Meal must be introduced at least 4 weeks before weaning, and continued for two weeks after weaning.

The disbudding and castration events should be submitted at the same time as this event, if not already submitted.

Event 5 Weaning

The weaning event is the also required as part of the sucker scheme, and the weaning event contains a number of elements

- Weaning event (**must have been fed meal for 4 weeks**)
- Docility (score from 1 to 5) – these are within herd rankings
 - 1 = Very Quiet
 - 2 = Quiet
 - 3 = Average
 - 4 = Difficult
 - 5 = Very difficult
- Calf Quality (score from 1 to 5) – these are within herd rankings
 - 1 = Very Poor
 - 2 = Below Average
 - 3 = Average
 - 4 = Very Good
 - 5 = Exceptional