Animal Health Improvement Cycle Report

(Please refer to Notes for Guidance. Fields marked with * are mandatory)

Part 1: Farm and Vet Details (to be completed by vet, in discussion with farmer):

Vet name: *

Vet practice: *

Farmer name: *

Farm address: *

Postcode: *

CRN: *

CPH Number: *

Veterinary Certification

I confirm that:

1. I have completed the required training for delivery of the AHIC.

2. The practice delivering this service is responsible for 24 hour care, clinical services and antibiotic prescribing on this farm.

Veterinarian signature:*

RCVS Number:*

Date:*

Please state approximate numbers of the applicable livestock classes:

Stock Type	Present on Farm?	Total Number of Animals	Number of Breeding Females
Sheep	☐		
Beef	☒	118	45
Dairy	☐		
Other	☐		
Please state stock type if other:			

Farm Assured: *   ☐ Yes   ☒ No

If Farm Assured, which scheme:
☐ FAWL
☐ Red Tractor
☐ Organic (any scheme)
Other (please specify):

If not Farm Assured, Vet Attestation completed?   ☒ Yes   ☐ No

If Vet Attestation has been completed, Vet Attestation Number (VAN):

Antibiotic usage completed? *

☐ Yes – WLBP Calculator
☐ Yes – Nottingham Calculator
☐ Yes – Medicine Hub
☐ Yes – On paper
☒ Yes - Other (please specify):   Practice software analysing purchases
☐ No

Step 1 - Measure

Obtain key livestock production and health data for up to five Production Health Metrics (PHMs) and analyse this in the context of the farm's goals and needs, including working towards optimum performance. Record these in the table below. Some potential PHMs can be found in Appendix 1.

Select at least one of these **Production Health Metrics** (PHMs) identified for improvement and agree realistic targets. These are the metrics that will have the greatest impact on productivity, health and welfare of the animals, and where improvements are realistically achievable.

 Date Measure step completed: 14/02/2024

Completed on farm: ☒ Yes ☐ No

PHM (including measurement units)	Baseline Value (Tick if estimate)		PHM Selected (Tick if 'yes')	PHM Number	PHM Target Value	Comments
Stillbirths/Losses at calving (%)	16%	☒	☒	1	<2%	Excessive calf loss at birth probably a consequence of big calves and difficult deliveries.
Duration of calving period (months)	9 months	☐	☒	2	6 months	Calving pattern has extended over the years because of a haphazard replacement policy and leaving the bull with the cows for 'ease of management'. Six months is still longer than ideal but greater reduction than this in one year is probably not realistic.

Step 2 - Plan

For each selected PHM, agree up to 4 actions, that, if completed, will have a positive impact on the PHM value.

Date Plan step completed: Completed on farm: ☒ Yes ☐ No

PHM 1 * PHM name: Stillbirths/losses at calving (%)

Actions	Agreed Action	Agreed Evidence Required	Timeframe
A1.1*	Monitor and manage cow condition to ensure cows in a 'fit-not-fat' condition at calving.	Records of BCS data.	Begin now then as a minimum at calving, the start of the serving period and at weaning.
A1.2	Collect blood samples for laboratory testing to assess iodine status of the cows and to rule out infectious disease.	Laboratory report forms.	Before calving starts.
A1.3	Investigate the cause for any stillbirth/neonatal loss.	Post-mortem and laboratory reports.	After every calf loss.
A1.4	Source a new bull (the current bull on the farm is eight years old) paying particular attention to calving ease EBVs when making selection.	Movement records.	Before next serving period.

PHM 2   **PHM name:** Duration of calving period (months)

Actions	Agreed Action	Agreed Evidence Required	Timeframe
A2.1	Develop facilities to enable bull to be separated from the cows at the desired time.	Photographs of new bull pen.	By the end of the next serving period.
A2.2	Remove the bull form the cows earlier than in previous years until the desired duration of serving period/calving pattern is achieved.	Calving diary/BCMS records showing a reduction in calving period.	On going
A2.3			
A2.4			

Step 3 – Act

The farmer (with vet's guidance as necessary) carries out agreed actions over the agreed timeframe.

Farmer supplies agreed evidence: (written/photo/upload)

PHM 1   **PHM Name:** Stillbirths/losses at calving (%)

Action Number	Action	Action Completed	Date (if completed)	Farmer Comments	Veterinary Comments
A1.1*	Monitor and manage cow condition to ensure cows in a 'fit-not-fat' condition at calving.	Yes☐ No☐ Partly☒	Ongoing but assessments being carried out at strategic times.		More farmer training required.
A1.2	Assess nutritional and infectious disease status of the cows	Yes☒ No☐ Partly☐	14/02/2024		No evidence of iodine deficiency. No evidence of lepto.
A1.3	Investigate losses	Yes☐ No☒ Partly☐		Only two calves have been born dead since the review. One was delivered by a very fat cow and the other following veterinary attendance to correct a malpresentation. Since the cause of these losses seemed obvious post-mortem examinations were not requested.	
A1.4	Source a new bull.	Yes☐ No☒ Partly☐		Not yet required	

PHM 2 **PHM Name:** Duration of calving period (months)

Action Number	Action	Action Completed	Date (if completed)	Farmer Comments	Veterinary Comments
A1.1*	Develop new bull accommodation.	Yes☒ No☐ Partly☐	September 2024	A bull pen has been made at one end of the stock shed.	
A1.2	Take bull out earlier each year.	Yes☐ No☐ Partly☒	December 2024	The bull was taken away from the cows after three months last summer but was then put back in for two weeks because three cows were seen bulling. He was then taken out again so the bulling and therefore calving period will be shorter than last year.	Although the interim target service period of 6 months has not quite been achieved this year it has been reduced from the 9 month bulling/calving period last year.
A1.3		Yes☐ No☐ Partly☐			
A1.4		Yes☐ No☐ Partly☐			

Step 4 - Review

Vet review of progress and impact. If the agreed target(s) have been made, the cycle starts again. If not, the plan is revised, and the steps repeated until improvements have been achieved.

Date Review step completed: Completed on farm: ☒ Yes ☐ No

	Baseline PHM Value	Value at Review Step	% Change	Actual Change	Emission Mitigation KG/Co2e (if known)	PHM Improvements Achieved? (Yes/No)	PHM Repeated for next AHIC? (Yes/No)	Comments
PHM 1 *	16%	4%	12%	Stillbirths reduced from 8 calves during calving in 2023 to 2 calves in 2024		4% stillborn calves still fails to reach the agreed target of 2% but is much better than 8%!	Yes	
PHM 2	9 months	7 months	22%	Calving period reduced by 2 months		No, but significant progress has been made.	Yes although a target of 4.5 months rather than 6 months has been agreed.	

Veterinary summary comment

a. Overview of progress and impact:

Although further progress is required to achieve the highest level of efficiency good progress has been made with both managing cow condition at calving and so reducing the number of calves that are still-born, and therefore the biosecurity risk of buying in calves to foster onto the dams of the still-born calves, and in reducing the duration of the serving and therefore calving period. The aim is still to reduce the serving/calving period further. It is now becoming more urgent to source a new easy-calving, high health status bull. Veterinary advice about health status will be sought when suitable animals have been identified.

b. Veterinary advice for next steps:

It will be useful to establish the status of the herd with respect to several key diseases (BVD, IBR, Lepto, Johne's disease, Neospora etc – or at least some of them to start with!) to guide ongoing herd management.

Part 3 – Veterinary certification

I confirm that:

1. The steps **Measure, Plan and Review** have been completed with the farmer and this AHIC Report exists to verify this, for audit purposes.

2. I have completed the required training for delivery of the AHIC

3. The practice delivering this service is responsible for 24 hour care, clinical services and antibiotic prescribing on this farm

Veterinarian Signature:

Name:

RCVS Number:

Practice:

Date:

Part 4 – Farmer declaration

I confirm that the **Measure, Plan, Act and Review** steps have been completed and this AHIC Report exists to verify this.

Farmer Signature:

Date:

OR

The .... steps were not completed because: *(RPW may require further information)*

Farmer Signature:

Date:

Appendix 1 – Production Health Metrics (Examples-not exhaustive)

General	Dairy	Beef	Sheep
Growth rate (kg/day) in [defined population]	Heat detection (% of [defined population] served by Day 80)	Pregnancy rate (%)	Scanning rate (% of [defined population])
Mortality (% of defined population)	Pregnancy success (Number of overall services/ number confirmed pregnant (serves per conception), over a defined period)	Calving period (% of cows calving within [defined period])	Lamb survival (% of live lambs surviving until weaning)
Prevalence of [insert disease/condition] (% of [defined population])	Age at service (replacement heifers) (% of eligible heifers served by 15 months of age)	Still birth rate (%)	Lameness (% of [defined population])
Incidence of [incidence of disease/condition] (% of [defined population])	Mean age at first calving (age (months) of heifers at calving (within a defined time period)	Calf mortality (%)	Culling rate (% of [defined population])
Antibiotic use (mg/PCU)	Calving block (% of cows calving within [defined period])		
	Transition success (% of calved cows that reach 30 DIM)		
	Milk fever (% of [defined population])		
	Abomasal displacement (% of [defined population])		
	Body Condition Score		
	Passive colostral antibody transfer		
	Calf viability (stillborn) (% of [defined population])		
	Calf survival (% of [defined population])		
	First lactation success (% of calved heifers that enter a second lactation)		