

C-C.6 Bovine Mastitis and Lameness

Credits: 10 (100 hours)

Provider: Veterinary Postgraduate Unit – School of Veterinary Science

RCVS Content Covered

Click [here](#) to view the module content as outlined by the RCVS.

Aim of the Module

The aim of this module is to enable the candidate to develop comprehensive and systematic understanding of mastitis and lameness 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. critically appraise the management and monitoring of mastitis and lameness in cattle in the UK, and critically evaluate the role of the veterinary surgeon in planned mastitis and lameness control.;
2. apply clinical reasoning skills and evidence-based medicine to the aetiology, pathology, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis and control of common and emerging diseases affecting beef and dairy youngstock in the UK;
3. critically evaluate the legislation relating to youngstock rearing and infectious diseases and how it relates to the health, management and welfare of cattle and food production in the UK;
4. critically evaluate the husbandry and management of youngstock and communicate conclusions in the form of a herd health plan or youngstock rearing strategy;
5. critically appraise the literature relevant to clinical cases in the topics covered, and how the literature can be used to inform practice.

Module Structure

The syllabus will be divided into 2 study units, each containing basic lecture and reading material supported by weekly interactions in the form of asynchronous case-based discussions, other discussions and/or synchronous journal clubs/literature critiques.

Study Unit 1: Mastitis

- Mastitis pathogens, their epidemiology, treatment, prevention and control
- The role of the dry period and dry cow therapy
- Milking machine: its function, maintenance and testing; common problems and their role in mastitis
- The milking routine and teat disinfection; pre- and post-milking
- Somatic cell count – relevance, measurement and monitoring at herd and individual cow level

- Diseases of the udder and teat
- Economics, targets, recording and monitoring systems

Study Unit 2: Lameness

- Routine foot care, trimming and foot bathing
- Infectious and non-infectious causes of lameness and their treatment, prevention and control
- Risk factors for lameness
- Interaction between nutrition and lameness
- Economics, targets, recording and monitoring systems

Assessment Strategy

- **2 x 1500-word reflective case reports (60%)**
On a topic related to the relevant study units, students are required to reflect on their own practice, using evidence-based veterinary medicine to inform their reflection. Reflective case reports are written following the format of published case reports in the veterinary literature. The case report component of the assessment must be passed for successful completion of the module, and is non-compensatory with other assessments, however there is compensation between case reports. Case reports are also submitted to a discussion board for critique and discussion by/with peers. A proportion of marks for this assessment are also allocated to this discussion element.
- **1 x 1-hour open book examination (30%)**
Based around clinical scenarios/cases, relevant to the module study units.
- **1 x written journal critique (not more than 500 words) and short oral presentation of the critique (15 minutes) (10%)**
Hosted by a staff member online synchronously using MS Teams. Students present their critique to the group, and the tutor and the students then hold a discussion of all papers. These are assessed on the submitted critique as well as the discussion.

Assessments are submitted sequentially with feedback being given between assessments to aid in the development of writing skills.

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.