



# WELcalf Study

## **Terms and Conditions**

Access will be required to calf rearing facilities, and all calves present on the farm. An approximate schedule for data collection is as follows.

### ***Calving season visit***

During a visit an interview with the principal calf manager will occur. Animal and environmental measurements, and observations, will be recorded. Colostrum (dairy farms), blood and faecal samples will also be collected.

During each visit, video recordings will be made of two separate groups of calves. These recordings will be approximately one hour in duration and will only be used to make behavioural observations such as amount of time spent lying and standing within the hour. All recordings will be held confidentially and will not be disclosed to any third parties.

Participants will also be requested to provide timely information regarding calf mortality and morbidity, using the dedicated WELcalf page on the ICBF website. Morbidity is defined as any health issue which required a treatment e.g. electrolytes, antibiotics, veterinary attention. Participants will receive a text message each week reminding them to complete this task.

### ***Weighing visit***

We also aim to weigh animals in the study at different intervals (e.g. 6 months, housing, pre-breeding/15 months and start of second winter). These visits will be organised for a time convenient for you and weights will be emailed out shortly after the visit.

Participants in the study will receive valuable feedback which will benefit their enterprise. As the data must be collated, analysed and interpreted, feedback will not be available immediately but a report will be provided before the start of the 2027 calving season.

Access to your HerdPlus account will be required to allow us to view herd health data and calving reports. By agreeing to participate in this study you agree to allowing Teagasc and UCD researchers in this project to have access to your data on the ICBF system. You also agree to allow access to AIMS data.

**By participating in the programme, you are agreeing to the terms and conditions.**