



## REARED CALVES

The importance of buying quality calves, that suit your system, is now more important than ever. Calves are now purchased with no direct subsidies claimable on them. This means that the focus will have to be on the efficiency of production and therefore when buying calves and reared calves they must have the potential to perform well in your system.

Meadow Quality is able to work with producers to meet these needs. They market over 30,000 calves a year and are able to supply stock that match requirements. Through working with beef producers, Meadow Quality can agree the specification required and then source the calves to meet this.

Meadow Quality buys calves direct off farm. They work very closely with the dairy farmers who supply us to develop long-term improvements in calf quality. Calves are purchased from across the country and go through one of three collection centres, so that they can be batched in groups of even weight, age and quality. This means that a group of calves is delivered, rather than having to buy from many places to get the type of calves wanted.

In addition to marketing young calves, Meadow Quality has a number of specialist calf rearers who rear calves for them. These are sold at three months of age, weighing around 120kg. When an order for reared calves is placed, the calves are then sourced and reared specifically for the producer. This approach means that the reared calf buyer knows what the price will be when the calves enter the rearing unit. In addition, extra requirements can be catered for; so that when the calves arrive on farm they meet with the buyer's expectations.

Meadow Quality is committed to continually improving upon the quality of their reared calves. All calves are vaccinated against pneumonia, ensuring the best possible start to life. In addition all of the calf rearers work very closely with a team of consultant veterinary surgeons, to ensure the highest quality of advice. Individual health plans have been produced and implemented on the units, with regular updates.

Reared calves are marketed at 3-4 months old, when they will weigh approximately 120kg. Prices are quoted at 100kg, with any weight above this invoiced at an agreed rate. When you order reared calves they will go onto the units specifically for you, so the price is known in advance and they are available at the best time for you.

All calf rearers work with our consultant veterinary practice and have individual health plans in place. All calves are vaccinated against pneumonia, with Bovipast RSP. This minimises the risks of pneumonia in their early life and ensures that the calves have the ability to grow and perform to potential.