

**Animal Research Programme – Animal Health and Well-being**  
***RMIS No: 5902***

**Title :** Epidemiology of calf survival on dairy farms

***Abstract***

There has been an international decline in calf survival, particularly in Holstein-Friesian primiparae. The project objectives (O) and tasks (T) are: O.1. Establish current risk factors and causes of perinatal mortality and of abortion in Irish dairy herds: T.1. Update and specification of regional animal health database (RVLC) and T.2. Analysis of risk factors and causes of perinatal mortality and abortion in RVLC, O.2. Determine temporal trends in causes of perinatal mortality: T.3. Compare results within a Teagasc archive clinico-pathological database with current findings from a database created from replication of these examinations, O.3. Characterize the precalving behaviour of heifers which may be related to calving problems: T.4. Analyse a Teagasc ethology database, O.4. Characterize current incidence, types and risk factors for congenital defects in aborted, stillborn and young calves: T.5. Analyse epidemiological and pathological variables for congenital defects in aborted, stillborn and young calves in RVLC, O.5. Design a standard operating procedure (SOP) for calf mortality problem herd investigation: T.6. Collaborative design with the RVL, vet. practitioners and researchers internationally. O.6. Establish the effects of perinatal mortality and dystocia on milk production, health and fertility: T.7. Collate and analyse data from the ICBF and Oracle databases.

***Project Leader :*** John Mee  
***Start Date :*** 02/09/2009  
***Expected Finish Date :*** 01/12/2012