

A Bad Year To Leave The Bull In Too Long?

Any cows who are served from now on will –

- Calve from May onwards.
- Will either have to be housed for longer until they have calved or turned out to grass with the risk of them becoming too fat and running into calving difficulties.
- If they are weaned when they are housed in early October they will be dry for 7 months which will also make them fatter when they calve.
- When their calf is weaned in autumn 2022 it will only be 5 months old or younger.
- Light calves at weaning suffer a bigger weaning check with a much higher risk of developing pneumonia etc.
- All of these problems will be at the cost of these cows eating the most winter feed.
- With feed supplies and in particular straw tight and hence expensive while cull cow prices are very firm, taking the bull out, scanning 5 weeks later, putting all barren cows with their calves into a separate group and managing both cows and calves so the cows can be culled ASAP before winter starts will go some way to help reduce the problems you will face in the coming winter.

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