

Appendices

Appendix 1. Management topics and details solicited during interviews with suckler cow farmers ($n = 39$) and dairy DCC farmers ($n = 6$). DCC = dam-calf contact

Topic	Details solicited
Farm characteristics	Reasons for and moment of system change to suckler cow farming/dairy dam-cow contact farming
	Herd size and composition (heifers or bull in cow-calf group)
	Breeds
	Use of artificial insemination
	Production system and marketing (conventional, organic, label, direct marketing)
	Purchase of additional calves
Feeding management	Feeding time and frequency; ad libitum feeding
	Composition of the feed ration (cows and calves)
	Mineral supply
	Use of concentrate (cows and calves)
Animal health	Health issues–cows
	Health issues–calves
Cow-calf contact	Duration in calving pen
	Group or single calving
	Seasonality of calving
	Reintegration in group after calving
	DCC system (whole day, separation overnight from a certain age)*
	Differences in calf management due to sex (e.g. castration, separation)
	Weaning age/body weight
	Weaning method (e.g. nose flap, separation)
Milking*	Milking frequency
	Milking times
	Milking system (bucket, pipe, parlour)
	Milking problems (milk composition, restraining)
	Access of calves to the milking parlour
Dung removal	Times and frequency
	Method
Open questions	Positive experiences
	Negative experiences

* Only DCC farms