

**SPECIAL SUCKLER SERIES**  
**WINNING THE WEANING CHALLENGE**

# Pre weaning form

## Keeping your records up to date

After calves have been registered through animal events you will then get a pre-printed weaning form. The details of the calves will already be recorded on this sheet. Check these details are correct and amend as necessary.

\*\*\* Remember this form must be completed and posted within 7 days of meal feeding having commenced.

**Guide to completing record sheets**

**Step 1** Check the pre-recorded data on the sheet is correct. You can fill in any missing information at this stage

**Step 2** Record the date of dis-budding. For example if a calf was dis-budded on the 25th of February you would simply enter 25/02. This information has to be recorded for each individual calf. If a calf dies before disbudding or is polled and does not have horns then simply enter N/A instead of the date.

**Step 3** Record the date of castration. Obviously this only applied to male calves and if a calf has been registered as a female then female will be pre-printed in this box. Enter the date the same way as you did when dis-budding. E.g. If a calf was castrated on 14th of April then enter 14/04. If calves are not being castrated then simply enter N/A. Remember calves of 6 months old must be castrated by a vet.

**Step 4** Record the date meal feeding commences. Remember meal feeding must commence 4 weeks prior to weaning. The date must be recorded for each individual calf. If meal feeding commences on 14th of July then enter 14/07. It is compulsory to meal feed prior to weaning and therefore all calves must have a date entered beside their name.

**Step 5** Sign and date the form.

**Step 6** Return the form in the post using the Freepost envelope provided.

# Post weaning pre-printed form

This is the final recording form and is used to record weaning data. Again it is pre-printed with the individual information for each calf.

\*\*\* Remember this record sheet must be posted back within 28 days of weaning.

**Step 1** Record the weaning date of the calf. Remember calves must be weaned 2 weeks prior to being sold. If calves were weaned on 14th of September enter 14/09.

**Step 2** Record the docility of the calf.

**Step 3** Record the quality of the calf.

**Step 4** (Only complete if you have accurate data) If you have weighing facilities, record the weight of the calf along with the date it was weighed. Only complete this section if you have accurate data.

**Step 5** Sign and date record sheet.

**Step 6** Post completed record sheet back using the Freepost envelope provided.

Livestock editor Justin McCarthy looks at completing the pre and post weaning forms

**THIS WEEK**  
Completing the pre and post weaning forms, including the Irish Farmers Journal special weaning calculator.

**Week 5**  
Managing the calf post weaning and ensuring the calf remains healthy up until selling.

**Week 6**  
Managing the cow post weaning including reducing feed costs, body condition scoring and cow health.

