



Out-wintering High Producing Dairy Heifers

Any reduction in heifer rearing costs must be achieved without causing a greater cost to performance once in the milking herd.

The challenge was to determine the suitability of out-wintering dairy heifer replacements, from a high yielding dairy system, on (1) deferred grazed grass and

In-calf Holstein heifers can be out-wintered successfully on high output dairy farms without a negative impact on subsequent performance or fertility, provided there is careful planning and management.

Out-wintering on (1) kale and grass silage or (2) deferred perennial ryegrass and grass silage for in-calf heifers, can be used as a viable alternative to the high