

## **NORMA'S NOTES FOR AG DAY – PART 1**

### **What you need to know first**

Remember, the animal you are about to take care of for the next 12 weeks (3 months) is a baby, whether it is a calf, lamb or kid. This is a huge commitment for any child and whilst they must do the work, it is up to the parents to offer encouragement (if the weather is bad) and a little help (especially with the first leading lessons). Both parents and child will have to decide at this time, why the child wants to raise an animal, where it will be kept and what will happen to it after weaning - kept as a pet, sold, or given back to the farmer (if loaned).

Milk powder will be required, plus grain, hay, water, shelter and a safe paddock. Most calves will require two bags of milk powder to weaning, plus at least one bag of meal. It is no use skimping on the food, otherwise the animal will not grow. The costs have to be taken into consideration.

The animal needs regular feeding and handling if the child is to successfully raise it for School Agriculture Day and A&P Shows.

It will need warm dry shelter after having to leave its mum, kind but firm handling and quality feed. Babies like to have a drink, maybe a little play and then they sleep a lot, just like human babies. They are up and about for the next feed.