



Fertility Success Farm Visit

We were delighted to run a joint meeting with AHDB Dairy and Chris Hudson from the University of Nottingham kindly hosted by Richard and Ed Newton at Millers Court in Birtsmorton on the last day of June. The turnout for the meeting was excellent and everyone took away some good ideas.

The main theme for the day was how to achieve and monitor successful fertility in higher yielding herds. Millers Court is a progressive and recently expanded herd using brand new housing and parlour facilities which were carefully designed and implemented to make individual cow performance monitoring easy and straight forward, especially for three times a day milking and weekly vet visits.

Ed Newton kindly elaborated on the trials and transitions involved with setting up a new dairy alongside managing the existing herd. The new building was designed long and thin with open sides and a high pitch roof to maximise ventilation, light and cow flow throughout the building. Staff training and appraisal has been key to maximise the efficiency of the team and avoid inefficient use of time. Dry matter intake is always at the forefront of decisions such as pushing feed up 6 - 8 times a day, investing in a robot to increase this yet further and feeding 5% over so cows never run out. A fresh cow group and very careful stocking in the dry cow groups are going to be essential for high performance, productive cows alongside professional planning from their Nutritionist.



Chris Hudson MRCVS from University of Nottingham discussed fertility, focusing of monitoring and costs.

- Cows that miss a heat/are pd -ve cost around £2 per day that they are not in calf due to the sacrifice in peak lactation days – so how do we eradicate this?
- Monitoring and recording breeding information is vital to establish herd weaknesses and how to address them – is the problem SUBMISSION rate or is it CONCEPTION rate?
- His three main points of advice after the thorough recording of DATA were:



- 1 Loafing area is vital for heat expression and detection (other benefits such as slurry volumes)
- 2 Tail paint/heat detection aid 17-21d after service
- 3 Maximise Transition DMI

Phillipa Page MRCVS from the farm team here at Woods outlined how careful planning and routine fertility assessments of the cows both physically and on Interherd which is a new addition to the herd, have been essential to managing the changeover:

- 1 Routine visits are a very efficient use of time due to the locking head yokes and allows cows to be seen weekly – minimal loss of time and reduced use of treatments through ability to re-see cases
- 2 Fresh checks done at 17 days by the vet to ensure prompt action – highlights transition issues
- 3 Dynamic monitoring transition success through physical checks at R/V and using interherd data

Thank you to the Newtons, AHDB, Chris Hudson and everyone who attended for an informative meeting!

On Farm Medicine Disposal – Dairy, Beef and Sheep Units

With the season for farm inspections in full flow it is time to get farm protocols in order. In order to comply with Red Tractor and crucially DEFRA guidelines ALL LIVESTOCK PREMISES MUST HAVE A YELLOW SHARPS BIN AND GRIFF BIN to dispose of used needles and the bin for medicine bottles. These have always been available from the practice and the cost of purchase includes returning the container to us for licensed disposal. It couldn't be easier! To help get everyone compliant with the rules we are running an offer this summer:

Throughout JULY AND AUGUST

Buy a 27 Kg Bottle Bin and a 2 Litre sharps bin for just £60 +VAT

This is a saving of nearly £20 and for a lot of you these two containers will last a very long time. Remember that these rules apply to all medicines administered on livestock premises.

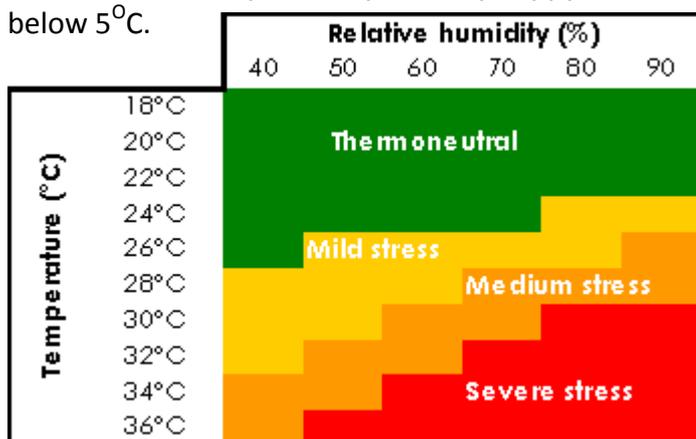
Ring the Office today to order your summer deal!



Heat Stress

Whilst I write this, it is actually raining but since the end of May we have seen short spells of hot weather with extended periods of high humidity. You might say a classic English summer. As we discussed last year, this is the type of weather that we are not really set up to deal with. Our European and Global counterparts have extended periods of high humidity and hot temperatures and therefore have devoted time and resources to managing the effects that it has on livestock performance.

A cow's comfort zone is between 5 and 25°C with moderate humidity but they are very happy well below 5°C.



Short periods of high heat and humidity impacts cow performance because they will start to:

- pant and sweat using up to 20% more energy
- reduce dry matter intake by between 10 and 30%

The end result is lower energy levels which impact the quality of eggs being produced – these

eggs are then ovulated over the next 100 days meaning a long term negative impact on conception rates.

What can we do? :

- Get fans on where possible and increase ventilation
- Ensure grazing cattle have adequate shade and fly repellent
- Ensure water troughs are:
 1. Clean with fresh water supply
 2. Constantly full/filling
 3. Enough troughs to avoid competition /dominance – talk to us about how to measure the space required for the number of cows.

Remember; when we think it's warm enough for a BBQ, the livestock might not necessarily agree. Getting a thermometer that also indicates humidity in the sheds is that first starting point – you cannot change what you don't measure!

News

Foot Trimming Courses

Full Day Theory and Practical Course

Register your interest on 01452 543 999 or largeanimal@woodvet.co.uk Date TBC

Bluetongue Vaccine

Vaccines will be available for cattle and sheep to be ordered on request from Mid July
Speak to us for advice or queries!