

STRUGGLING TO GET HIGH YIELDING HOLSTEINS IN CALF?

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Farm Health Planning – Coordinated by the Cattle Health and Welfare Group

Thanks to

- Laura Randall BCVA for organising
- Sue Cope CIS for sponsoring
- David Cotton & Helen Brookes DairyPro for compiling personal development records

Struggling to get high yielding holsteins in calf?

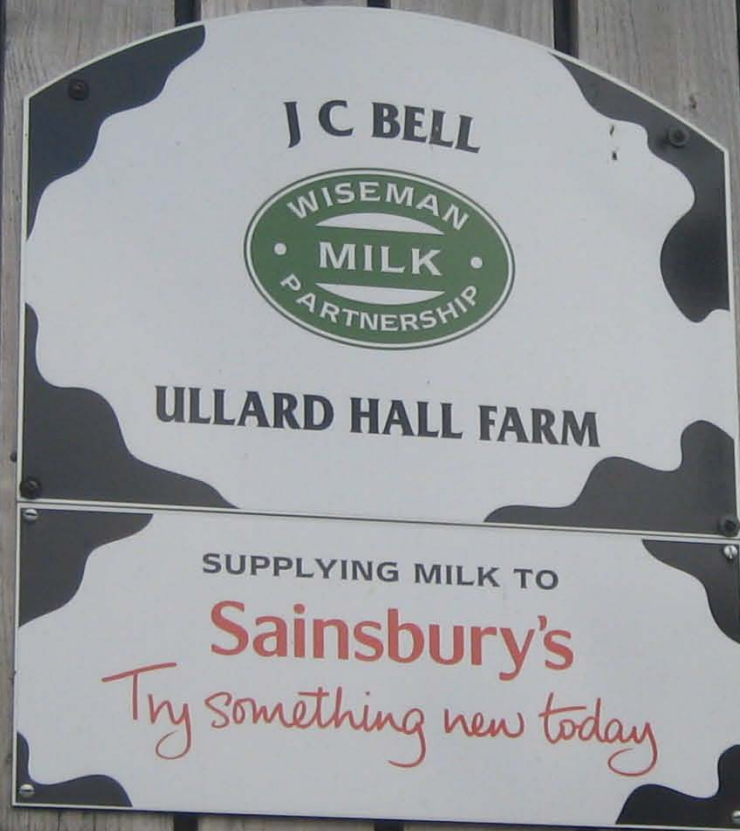
- ▣ Introduction to the farm
- ▣ What do we do that we think makes a difference?
- ▣ What challenges do high yielding Holsteins face?
- ▣ Solutions
- ▣ Benchmarking disease
- ▣ Challenges for the future

Interactive graph

- ▣ How many hours does the average Holstein express standing heat for?
 1. 0-3 hours
 2. 3-6 hours
 3. 6-9 hours
 4. 9-12 hours
 5. More than 12 hours

- (from the work of Roelofs 2005)

Introduction to the farm





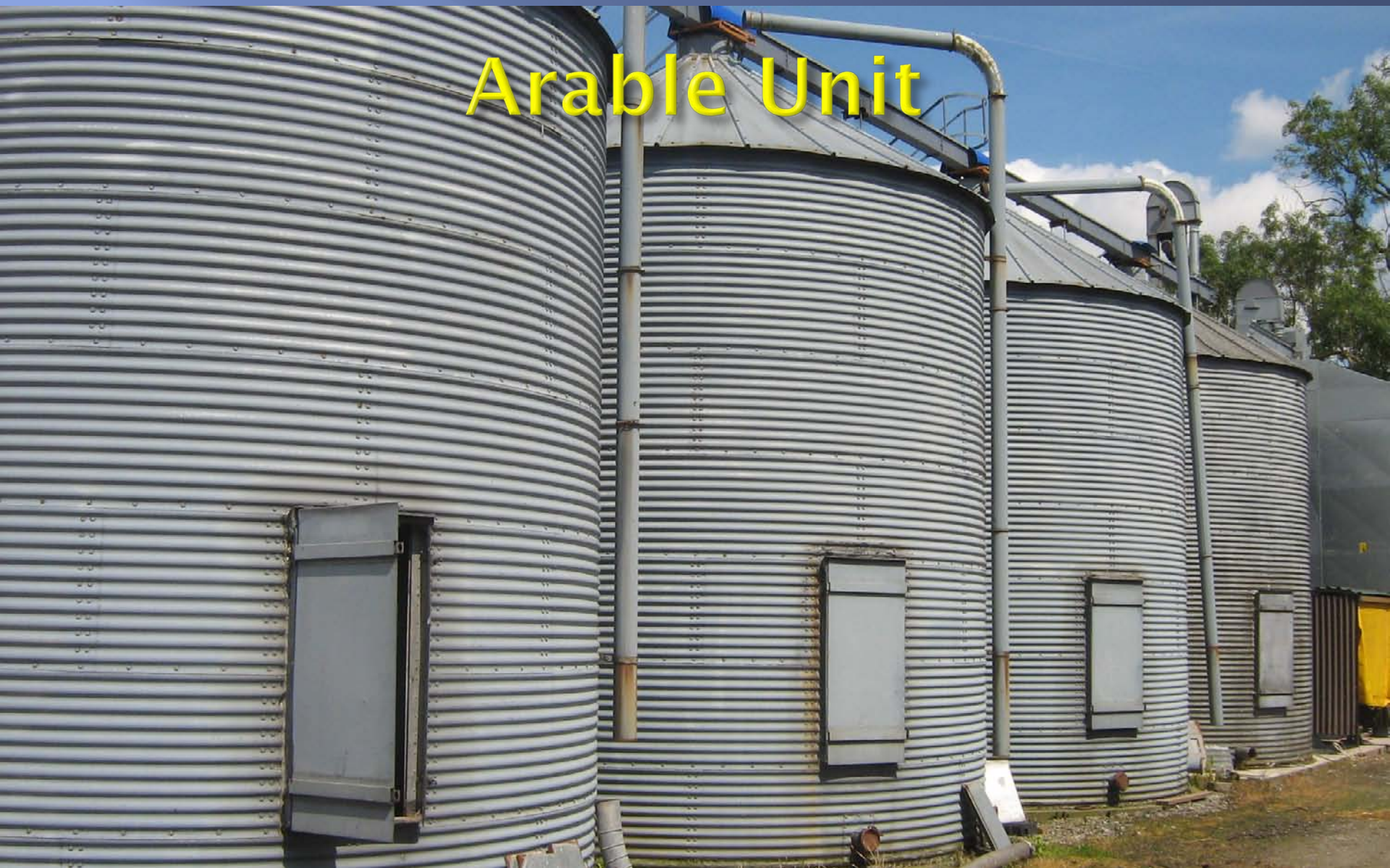
Ullard Hall Farm

Dairy farm



	Ullard Hall facts and figures
Acres total	580
Milk sold per year	2.2 million litres
Sold to	Wiseman Sainsburys
Arable acres	160
Maize acres	80
Staff	3 full time 3 part time
Cow numbers	260 expanding to 280 (plus followers)
Additional business	Bird feed www.bellsfeeds.co.uk
Additional business	Ice cream farm www.sevensistersfarm.co.uk

Arable Unit



Bird Feed Business





Bell's Finest

Ice Cream Farm Business



**We face very typical
challenges**

Staff.....













Buildings and Infrastructure

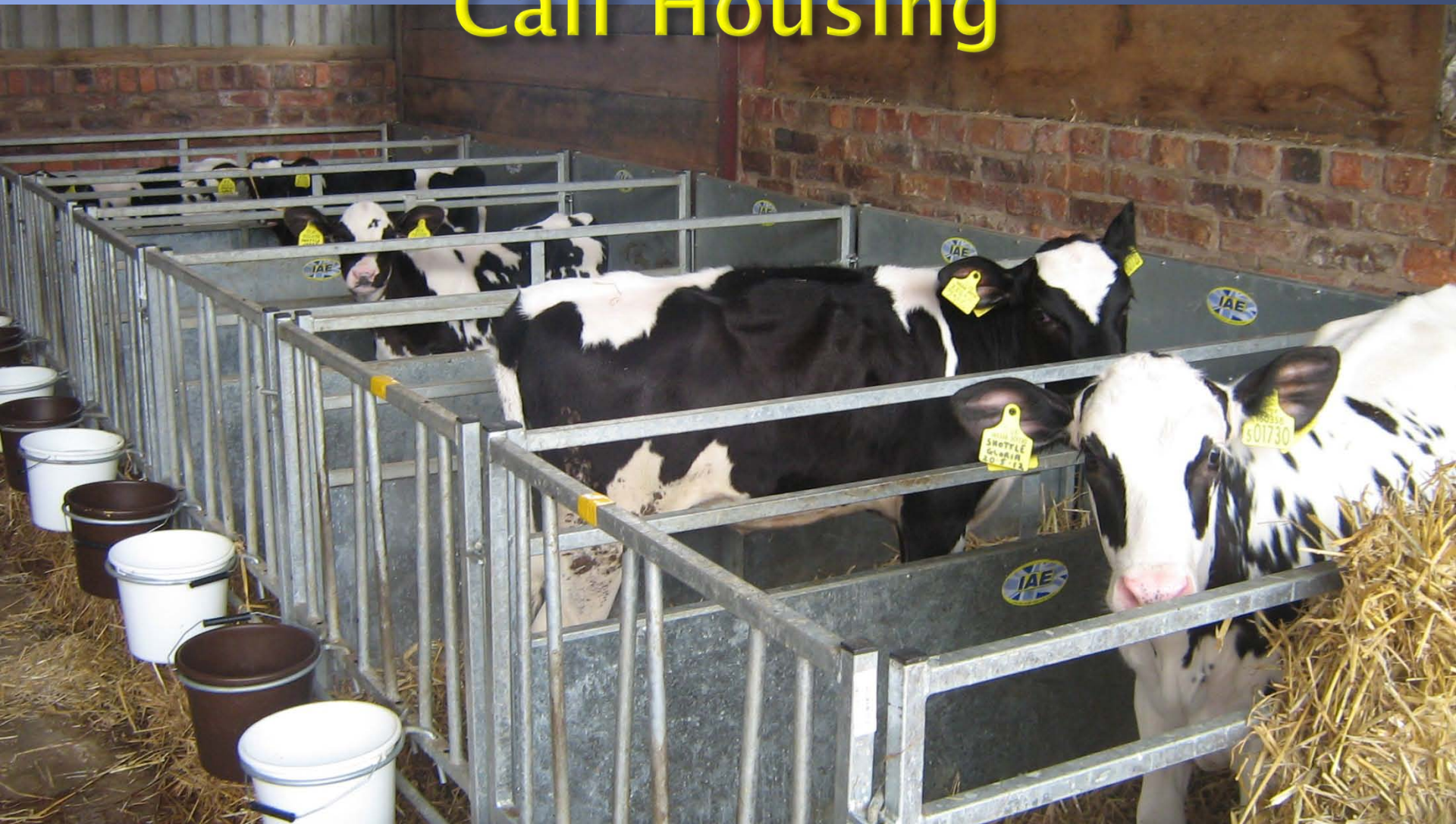








Calf Housing







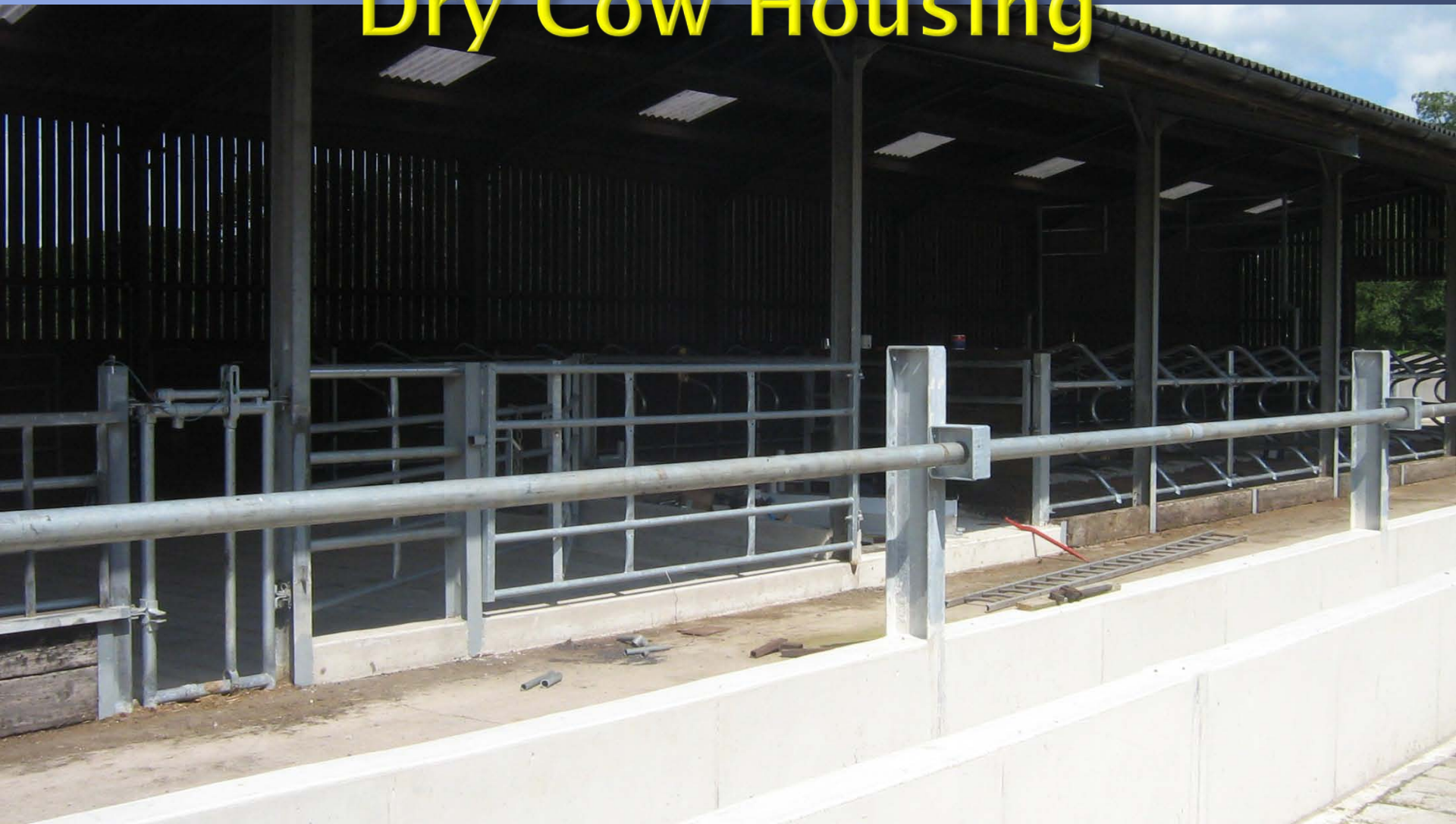


Feeding System





Dry Cow Housing







Parameter	Ullard Hall Performance
Milk per cow per year	9489 litres
Bulk tank SCC (July 2012)	174 000
Culling rate	20.8%
100 day in calf rate	42%
Number of mastitis cases (in year to July 2012)	100
Mastitis rate per 100 cows per year	37.0
Number of lameness cases (in year to July 2012)	29
Lameness rate per 100 cows per year	10.7

Breeding policy



Number of cows pregnant each month

Month	Number pregnant	Number not pregnant	Percent PD positive
Aug 11	28	24	54
Sep 11	16	14	53
Oct 11	25	12	68
Nov 11	19	12	61
Dec 11	21	20	51
Jan 12	14	12	54
Feb 12	22	13	63
Mar 12	19	20	49
Apr 12	17	23	43
May 12	10	29	26
Jun 12	16	11	59
Jul 12	12	18	40

What do we do that we think makes a difference?

- ▣ Fortnightly fertility visits
 - Look at PDs, post natal checks, not seen bulling
 - Obsessive about cows being clean and cycling quickly after calving









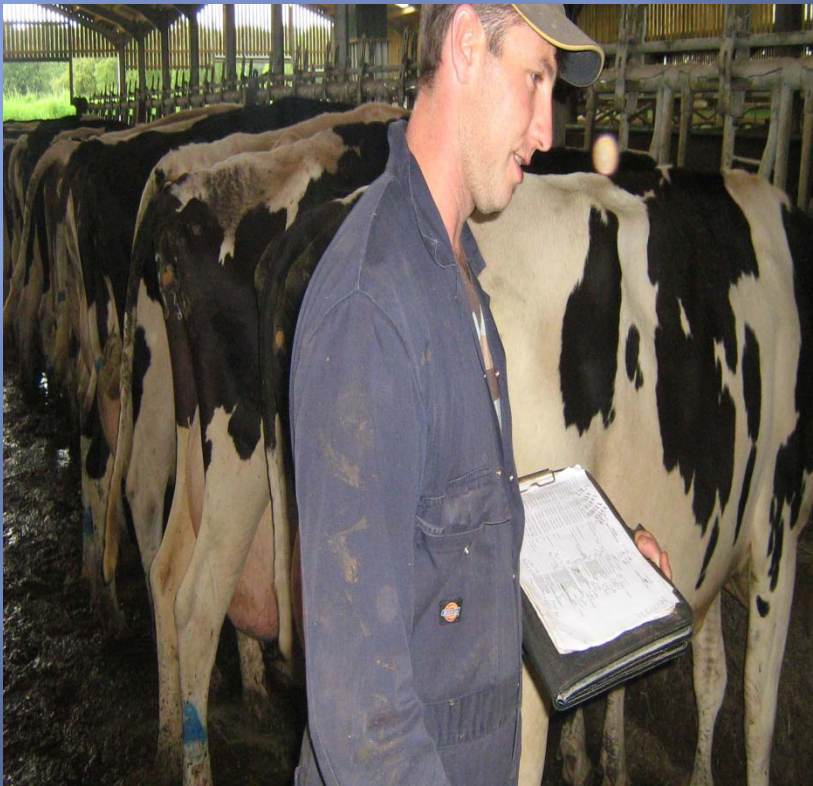
What do we do that we think makes a difference?

- ▣ Heat time
- ▣ Insemination timing/ technique

What do we do that we think makes a difference?

MONITORING
PERFORMANCE

ASSESSMENT OF DISEASE
INCIDENCE



What do we do that we think makes a difference?
-Mobility scoring and reduction of lameness



What challenges do high yielding Holsteins face?

- ▣ Factors that we think may impact on the cow's subsequent fertility...
- ▣ Heat expression
- ▣ Milk yield
- ▣ Variability in intake
- ▣ Disease around calving
- ▣ Mastitis and lameness
- ▣ Social hierarchy issues

Solutions

- ▣ Heat expression-
heat time
- ▣ Heat expression-
use of
fertility
visits



Solutions

- ▣ Milk yield- consider the genetic implications
- ▣ Milk yield- consistency of feeding

Solutions

- ▣ Variability in intake- consistency of forage



Solutions

- ▣ Variability in intake- avoid bullying



Solutions

VARIABILITY IN INTAKE-
SMOOTH TRANSITION



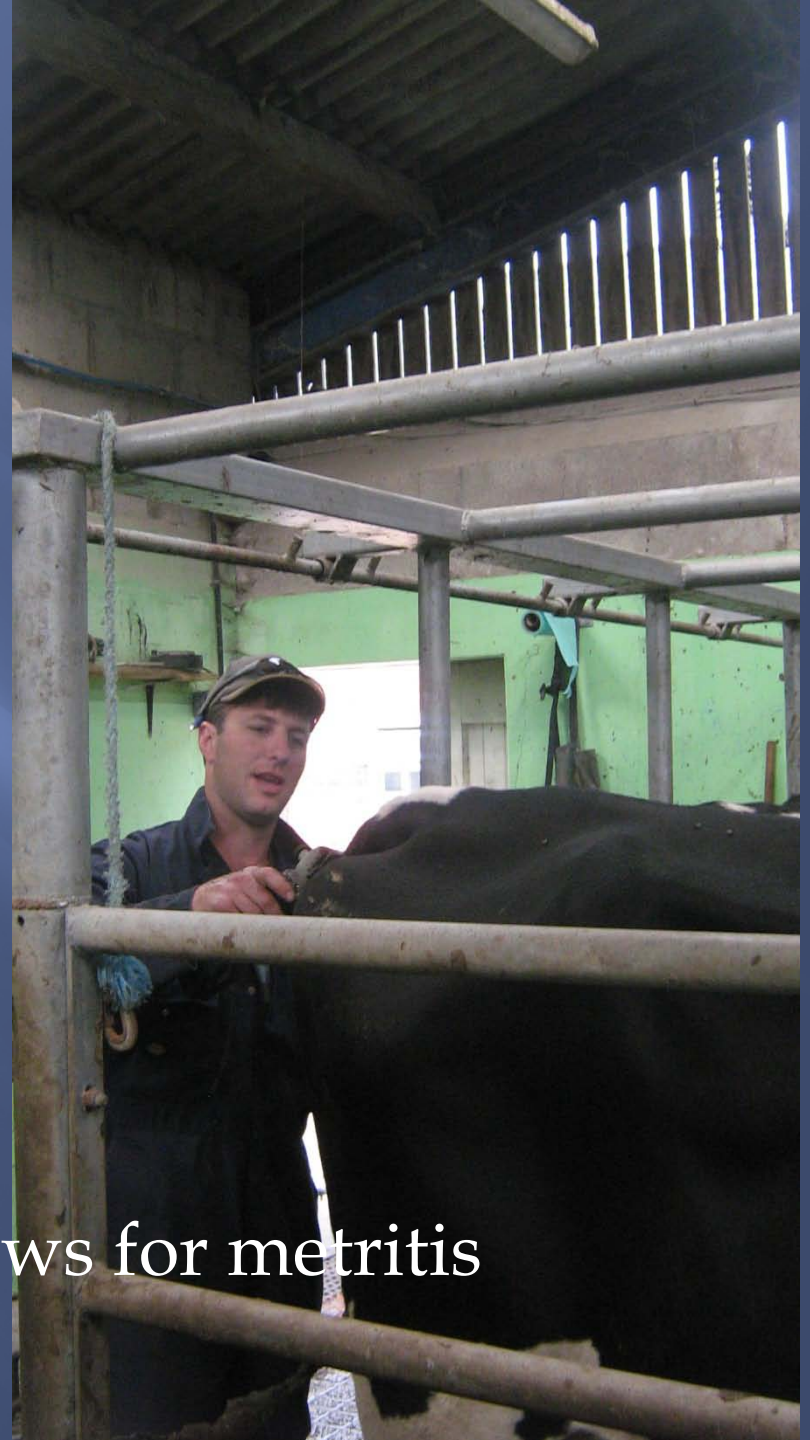
Solutions

VARIABILITY IN INTAKE-
SMOOTH TRANSITION



Solutions

- ▣ Disease around calving- consistency of feeding
- ▣ Disease around calving- bullying
- ▣ Disease around calving- checking for metritis/
dirty cows in the 2 weeks after calving



▣ Checking fresh calved cows for metritis

Solutions

- ▣ Lameness- footbathing
- ▣ Lameness- preventative trimming
- ▣ Lameness- tracks and gateways
- ▣ Lameness- prompt attention; mobility scoring?

Solutions

- ▣ Social hierarchy issues- fresh cow group



Benchmarking disease

- ▣ Assessment of performance against national and local results
- ▣ Assessment of performance against farms own previous results and desirable targets

