

# Cattle Health and Welfare Group

Unit 31, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2LY

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## Take Home Messages – Farm Health Planning Seminars - 2014

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014

### **Fertility:**

***Using Breeding Protocols and fertility visits to improve pregnancy rates in beef and dairy herds.***

- Focus on managing BCS of cows pre-calving to ensure good fertility in the next lactation
- Use the correct breeding protocol for your herd/age of enrolled cattle
- PD early to prevent extended days open and allow culling decisions to be made

### **Mobility:**

***Why we do the things we do: tackling lameness on farm***

- Digital Dermatitis control is achievable – the key is regular footbathing
- Set realistic, attainable targets e.g. I want fewer lame cows vs I will footbath once daily Mon – Fri
- Work with the whole farm team to tackle your farm's specific lameness challenges

### **Nutrition:**

***Transition Cows and Ketosis in the Dairy Herd***

- Subclinical ketosis is an important disease of cattle
- Monitoring herd transition performance is central to prevention
- A coordinated farm approach between farmer and advisors is required

### **Mastitis:**

***Managing mastitis: maximising cow defences against infection***

- A team approach to mastitis control is vital, this can often unlock substantial cost-benefit
- The secret of good cure rates is not in a bottle or a tube!
- The DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan provides a structure for approaching mastitis control

### **Infectious diseases and welfare:**

***The hidden cost of Johne's Disease***

- Know your herd status: Even if you don't see clinical signs it may still be there, do some screening and find out
- It's the hidden costs that really hurt you: Increased SCC, mastitis, lameness and culling- not the odd clinical case

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- Don't ignore Johne's Disease: It will only get worse as you ignore it, speak to your vet and start controlling the disease NOW!

## Youngstock:

### ***How to make the most of your heifers' potential***

- You can't judge whether your heifers are meeting targets without collecting data (e.g. mortality, growth, Age at First Calving)
- Target Age at First Calving is 23-25 months for cost-effective rearing and better future performance in the herd
- It is essential to give calves a good start