

Cattle Health and Welfare Group

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Take Home Messages – Farm Health Planning Seminars - 2014

Thursday 3rd July 2014

Fertility:

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

- Post Natal Check ALL cows
- Don't assume that cows are clean and are 'about' to come into heat – get them checked!
- Use synchronisation protocols to supplement submission rate

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
- 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!

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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