

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

November 2010

Staff News

Forthcoming meeting on fertility

Embryo Transfer

AI Courses

Healthy Livestock funding

Lungworm

Staff news

As many of you are aware Julie Roper is expecting a baby around Christmas time and will be going on maternity leave at the beginning of December. To cover her leave, we welcome Stephanie King who with Marian Munday will be running the farm office. We wish them all Good Luck.

Forthcoming Meeting

Dairy Co Fertility meeting with Marco Winters

The second Dairy Co fertility meeting will take place on Thursday, 25th November from 11.30 -2.00 at the Greyhound Inn, Winterborne Kingston.

Marco Winters, head of genetics at Dairy Co, will talk about “Breeding for health and fertility”. As you are probably aware the Dairy Co breeding + programme offers independent advice on bull selection, using UK evaluation data from most available bulls. As part of this, a UK daughter fertility index has been introduced a few years ago, and the meeting will cover how to use these new tools to your benefit, hopefully reversing the general decline in dairy cow fertility.

Please find the enclosed invitation and let us know if you can make it.

We hope for a good turnout and a lively discussion.

Embryo Transfer

Our embryo transfer service is up and running, we have implanted several in the last few weeks. It is a real alternative to culling for repeat breeders – the cost of a cull is about £ 1000-£1500, while the procedure (fee and embryo) is about £90.

AI courses

We now have a licence to run DIY AI courses, whether initial training courses to learn the skills or refresher courses for the more experienced. The courses will be Defra approved, resulting in a certificate. They include some classroom sessions, but most of the course will be held on farm with real cows. Part-funding is available – please ask for more details if you are interested.



Healthy Livestock

As you are aware, we are taking part in the Healthy Livestock initiative. For the areas of mastitis, lameness, Johne's and BVD control, there will be funding available to cover meetings, one to one sessions on farm and part of some lab costs. The mastitis strand will be the implementation of the Dairy Co Mastitis Control Plan, for the other three areas there will be initial info meetings, followed by a couple of one to one sessions on farm and a final meeting at the end. More details (including costs) will come out this month. Please ring us if you are interested in any of the four areas – you can take part in more than one if you wish.



Lungworm

We have found several cases of lungworm in beef and dairy cattle – please be aware, and any coughing young or adult cattle on pasture or recently housed animals should be seen as suspects. Treatments (usually an ivermectin based pour on wormer or levamisole injection) should be given quickly to avoid damage. For lactating cows Eprinex is the only licensed product available. If in doubt, dung or blood samples can help to identify the problem.