

Another newsletter and so much has changed since the last one. Who could have predicted then that there would be a war so close to us, causing a humanitarian crisis. And with such a massive effect on the world's economy. With soaring costs only time will tell where we will all be when the next newsletter comes out, scary times!

With no comparison to this crisis, things are also changing within Cliffe. Will has said his final goodbye yesterday and is looking forward to going to New Zealand this winter. Luckily we still have Carmen with us for a bit longer before she too starts up a new life somewhere else, not as far as Will but still too far for us to be able to hold on to her.

We are well on the way of finding replacements for these two so I'm sure you will hear more about that in the next newsletter.

In the meantime both Leanne as well as Catherine have completed their ATT training and are now fully qualified TB testers! By now a lot of you will have met them.

As you can read below Leanne has also completed a mobility scoring training and Catherine will be assisting Nick with sheep AI and ET work

To end up on a positive note it's nice to be able to say spring has sprung, the grass is growing and healthy calves and lambs are spotted everywhere!

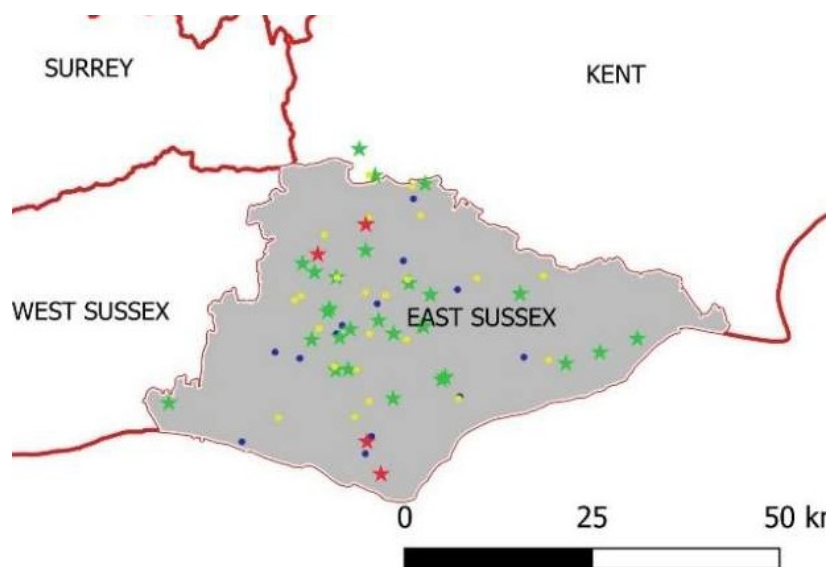


### THE SOUTHERN EDGE BADGER FOUND DEAD SURVEY RESULTS.

Submissions of dead badgers to Diplocks in Ringmer have been extended until June 2022.

£25 plus VAT will be paid for each submitted badger.

Collections kits (essential for proper submission) are available from Lewes and Laughton.



#### Southern Edge RTA Results

- ★ Positive
- ★ Negative
- ★ Results pending
- Unsuitable for PME
- Southern Edge counties
- GB County outline

### TBAS ADVISORY VISITS

The Cliffe Vet Team now offer TBAS Advisory Visits

The TB Advisory Service (TBAS) offer free on-farm TB advice visits. The vets at Cliffe have recently undergone training courses with TBAS to be able to offer these visits to our clients via their own vet.

All farmers are eligible for a free TB advisory visit. You may have recently undergone a breakdown and are worried about your future, or you may be TB free and looking for advice to maintain your TB clear status. The visit consists of a farm walk followed by a survey to identify potential TB risk factors around your farm. Bespoke recommendations are provided, and we follow up with a second visit six months later to assess your progress.

To book a TB advisory visit, please call us at the office or discuss with us when we're next on farm.



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## MOBILITY SCORING THE DAIRY HERD

### Why Mobility Score?

Regular routine mobility scoring enables early detection and prompt treatment of lame cows (score 2 and 3), before lameness deteriorates. Prompt treatment results in a quicker recovery and less loss of production. It also reduces the need for repeat treatments, saving you

money. Mobility scoring data, alongside foot trimming data can help identify trends and contributory factors to lameness on farm. Changes can then be implemented to improve foot health.



### How often should I do it?

Mobility scoring should ideally be done monthly. Some milk processors and supermarkets will ask for at least quarterly scores. If lameness is a real issue on farm, then scoring should be implemented monthly and reduced to quarterly as the situation improves.

### How does it work?

Cows are observed walking on level flat concrete and a score allocated to them based on standardised criteria. It is more useful to have the same person performing the scoring each month so that observations are consistent.

**Score 0 – Good Mobility** – Walks with even weight bearing and rhythm on all four feet with a flat back.

**Score 1 – Imperfect Mobility** – Steps uneven or strides shortened: affected limb(s) not immediately identifiable

**Score 2 – Impaired Mobility** – Uneven weight bearing on a limb that is immediately identifiable and/or obviously shortened strides. Sometimes arched back.

**Score 3 – Severely Impaired Mobility** – Unable to walk as fast as a brisk human pace. Lameness is easy to identify – limping; may barely stand on lame leg(s); back arched when standing and walking. Very lame

### Who does it?

There is no reason you cannot do this yourselves, but it is generally performed as cows exit the parlour, when most farm staff are busy sorting cubicles, scraping, feeding, or milking. An independent RoMS accredited scorer is preferred.

### What is RoMS?

The register of mobility scorers, RoMS is an independent, self-regulatory body which encourages the widespread use of standardised, independent mobility scoring conducted by trained and accredited scorers on UK dairy farms to a set of professional standards.

**Our ATT TB tester Leanne Mills is now accredited with RoMS and is now able to provide independent, competitively priced mobility scoring to any of our clients. Please call the practice to enquire.**



## OPTIMISING BEEF FERTILITY

The profitability of a beef suckler herd directly relates to amount of Kg sold at market. To make up these Kg, we add up number of calves and weight of calves. Therefore, good fertility is vital in the probability of suckler herds. How we achieve this is by a compact calving period and number of cows conceiving. A compact calving period means we can get a homogenous group at sale, strategic nutrition, disease control, heifer replacement (older animals to put to the bull) easier for group managements (vaccines, wormers etc..) and many more.

We will have a look at 2 farms in a case study below to explain this. Both were starting calving on 1<sup>st</sup> march and were aiming for store sales on 25<sup>th</sup> of October to a specific sale.

### Case study:

Farm 1 (Blue) had 72% of calves in the first 21 days of calving, and as we can see from the chart below, they had an average weight of 295kg at a value of £505.

Compare this Farm 2 (Gold) which only had 30%.

Also, important to note, as we go into the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> calving block, we lose £66 and £137 respectively on the calf value compared to ones sold in the first block.

This considering when all calves were sold, meant farm 1 had a revenue of **£136,380** compared to farm 2 which had a revenue of **£125,740**.

This means **farm 2 had lost a value of around £10,000** throughout the year due to more calves being born later, so didn't have enough time to get to the weight of the calves born in the first 21 days.



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