

Farm News July 2024

Mobility Scoring

Lameness is a major cause of poor welfare and economic loss in the UK dairy industry. With the average cost of a lame dairy cow being £3.30/day*, lame cows can soon become a financial burden along with also being a welfare concern. Each bout of lameness can result in a drop in milk yield, with the expected total loss being 550L* per lactation.

Early detection of lameness can prevent simple issues such as a bruised sole becoming something more serious like a sole ulcer, requiring more intensive treatment. For some milk contracts, regular mobility scoring is a requirement, but it is a really easy way to detect the prevalence of lameness within your herd.

RoMS

At Glenthorne Farm Vets we have four Register of Mobility Scorers (RoMS) qualified scorers - Gill Whitehurst, Fiona Ridout, Dan Lidgbird and Bogdan Jelea. To gain this qualification each had to undergo a training course, followed by an examination.

Mobility scoring is ideally carried out after milking, when the cows are returning to the cubicles or pasture. When completing a mobility score, the RoMS qualified scorer will watch the movement of each cow and grade them from 0-3.



A score 0 is perfect mobility, whereas a 3 would be severe lameness. Ideally any cow scoring 2 or higher would warrant further investigation by

having the cow in the crush and lifting the affected limb to identify the cause of the lameness.



We like to think of the Mobility Score as a way of generating a 'Trim List' rather than using the information in a negative way.

If you would like more information or to speak to one of our scorers, then please do not hesitate to contact the Farm Office on 01889 567200.

*Figures & images sourced from AHDB

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Please register your interest with the Farm Office on 01889 567200.



Forthcoming Events

We have the following training courses coming up to help keep you up to date with industry standards:

MilkSure Course



A training and stewardship programme for dairy farmers on the use of veterinary medicines. It aims to improve the professionalism around medicine use on dairy farms and drives higher standards, helps to avoid medicine residues and reduce antibiotic resistance. A two-part course run by our own team of MilkSure registered vets. We have a Part One course coming up on

Wednesday 10th July
10am – 1pm

At Heath House Conference Centre, Uttoxeter
 ST14 7BY

The fee for Part One is £63.96 ex VAT. Part Two then takes place on farm at a later date, where a farm specific risk assessment is completed and a management plan agreed. This takes around 80 minutes to complete.

Mastering Medicines

We are also holding a Mastering Medicines course. This is a Red Tractor approved course which aims to increase awareness of different classes of medicine, enhance knowledge of how different medicines work and how to use them effectively and responsibly as well as understanding antimicrobial resistance.

Wednesday 10th July
2pm

At Heath House Conference Centre, Uttoxeter
 ST14 7BY

This course is suitable for dairy, beef and sheep enterprises.

The fee for the Mastering Medicines course is £42.64 ex VAT.



Please call the Farm Office on 01889 567200 to book a place on either of these courses.

Sheep Abortion Workshop

You are invited to join us for an evening meeting on sheep abortion with guest speaker Alex Ashworth from MSD Animal Health. Alex will be discussing common causes of abortion, as well as looking at some recent FlockCheck blood sample results that have been undertaken at the practice.



Thursday 11th July
7.30pm

at Hanbury Memorial Hall, DE13 8TJ
 w3w ///domestic.fatter.mingles

(Please note change of venue to previously advertised)
 Lights refreshments will be provided. Please call the Farm Office on 01889 567200 to book a place. This event has been kindly sponsored by MSD Animal Health.

