



## Welcome Tom Crawshaw!

Welcome to Tom who has recently joined the farm team and is planning to spend a year with us.

Tom graduated from Glasgow Vet School in 2014, previously working as a farm vet in Northumberland, New Zealand and Lanarkshire. He is currently working towards his certificate in advanced veterinary practice.

Tom is enthusiastic about all areas of farm animal veterinary work, particularly cow's feet. When not at work, you will find him out exploring the countryside with his fiancé Mairi and his dog Roy.



## DAIRY FARMERS – SRUC Mycoplasma study

Farmers are being asked to help with a project researching Mycoplasma Bovis prevalence in Scottish dairy herds, by submitting 2 bulk milk samples, 4 times over a year.

M. bovis is an infectious condition that can cause a range of symptoms in cattle including pneumonia, head tilt, lameness and mastitis. Infections are often longstanding and difficult to treat, with some cattle showing no signs of disease. Farmers that wish to sign up can: email [mycoplasmabovis@sruc.ac.uk](mailto:mycoplasmabovis@sruc.ac.uk); text 07785 382371 or let one of our vets know.

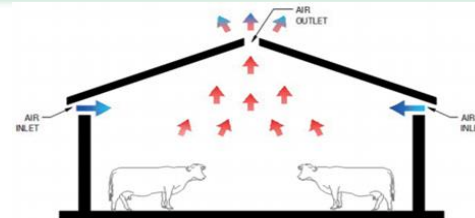


## Housing: Critical For Disease Prevention & Control

Successful livestock buildings must be designed to promote cleanliness & comfort, allow good access to feed & water, house appropriate group sizes and **REDUCE SPREAD OF DISEASE.**

Viruses and bacteria spread and survive best in wet humid environments; these same environments cause cold stress to animals, lowering their immune defences

**= THE PERFECT RECIPE FOR DISEASE.**



VENTILATION BY STACK EFFECT - WARM AIR RISES

### DRAINAGE

**Internal:** Each adult cow produces 18-30ltr of urine daily, i.e. a group of 12 cows can urinate 216-360ltr/day, exceeding any bedding absorptive capacity, so functional bed drainage is essential. Achieved by:

- Sloping of solid floors INTO drain
- Functionally maintained and appropriately positioned under-bed drainage channels
- Deep beds on concrete behind a curb (usually sleeper). A ½" gap between curb and floor will allow bed to drain onto concrete and be scraped away

**External:** One of the most common issues increasing humidity in livestock buildings is water outside the building. Maintaining functionally intact gutters and diverting pooling yard water/silage run-off around buildings will lower internal humidity, just as it does for your own house.

HUMIDITY TARGET:  
50%-65%max

### HOW TO REDUCE

#### MINIMISE FREE MOISTURE

**Water troughs:** Free from leaks, positioned away from bedding/ near functioning drain e.g. at feed face with a drainage channel cut to minimise ground water from spillage

**Bedding:** Adequate to absorb moisture and not 'Squelch' or leave your hand wet when pressed. If a deep bed becomes over saturated, adding more bedding does not remove the free fluid below, so better to partially/fully clean out and restart.

**Cleaning:** Regular scraping of passages to remove pooling fluids. Avoid hosing floors of sheds which adds free moisture and aerates pathogens, increasing spread of infectious diseases.

**VENTILATION** Continual fresh air changes remove moisture, reducing humidity. 100% fresh air kills airborne bugs 10X quicker than 50% fresh air, reducing disease survival and spread. Good ventilation requires correct quantity and type of inlet and outlet spaces.

#### RECIPE

**Required Inlet:** 0.1m<sup>2</sup>/cow + 0.04m<sup>2</sup>/calf  
Compare to actual Inlet: (Below roof slope)

**Air Speed:** Target 0.2-0.5m/s (Measure using an anemometer).

Inlets should be spread along full length of building, avoiding large openings that funnel air and cause high speed draughts (eg open doors). Air speeds of 2m/s cause cold stress to calves and increase risk of disease. Yorkshire boarding, space boarding or modern vented sheeting\* are good ways to provide diffused inlet with >20% void.

\*Older vented sheeting is usually only 4% void (0.04m<sup>2</sup> inlet per m<sup>2</sup>), blocks easily with dirt and fails to provide adequate inlet.

**Outlet:** (Above roof height) Minimum of 2X inlet area; **Target 4X inlet** – a minimum roof slope of >17° is required for chimney effect. Roof caps, even if raised, often reduce outlet efficacy.

**Smoke bombs:** In stocked houses, can identify inlet/outlet issues. All smoke should clear within 30-45 secs. Video the smoke's path and review to identify issues if this speed of clearance isn't achieved.

**MEASURE:** Humidity max-min monitors are cheap and readily available from stores such as screwfix and allow you to see how well your sheds are performing at different times of the housing period, which can help guide

## Nutrition

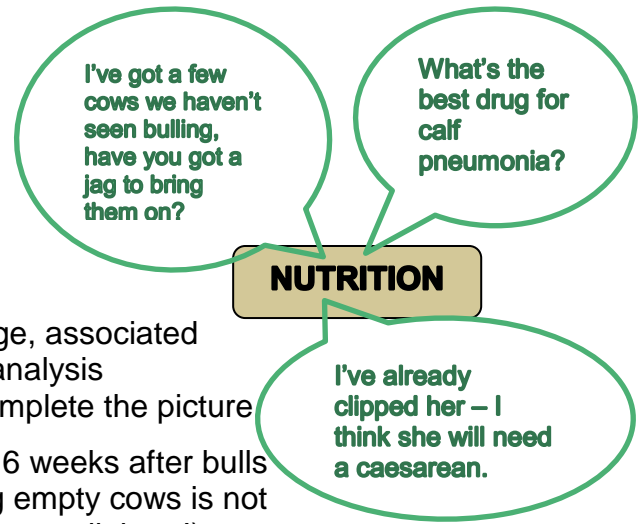
"How is your silage looking?" "Well, we've got plenty of it." But how many farms know the true energy value of what they have made..?

Making a nutrition plan at housing is an investment, which can reduce your feed bill and your vet bill.

Physical assessment can pick up dangers like mouldy silage, associated with listeria (a cause of abortion and silage eye). A silage analysis lets you plan how much to feed. A soil analysis will help complete the picture

Condition scoring cows during a scanning session roughly 6 weeks after bulls are removed will identify thin, fat and empty cows. Keeping empty cows is not economically justifiable (even if it is often emotionally tough to cull them!) These cows prolong herd fertility problems and often end up too pudgy to push.

Testing mineral status with the vet will allow you to get the best value from supplements and avoid wasting money on minerals not required – every farm is different. Mineral buckets are still a popular option but the major drawback is obviously that intakes are hugely variable.



### DO

Make a feeding plan and then check the plan in action - palatability, feedspace and competition can mean that what the cows are eating is not the same as what they are being fed.

Remember heifers calving for the first time need extra energy to reach their mature weight

Consider weaning calves earlier if a cow needs time to recover condition before bulling

### DON'T

Crash diet cows which are getting worryingly large towards calving - it will do more harm than good in late pregnancy

Make any changes to cows' ration suddenly - their guts need time to adjust

Feed the same ration for the whole pregnancy - energy intakes should be increased for the last 4-6 weeks

Getting nutrition right over the housed period can bring a multitude of benefits:

- Better milk= better calf growth rates in calves and less scour and pneumonia
- Less difficult calving's
- More cows back in calf next season
- Less feed wastage=a healthier bottom line

The vets are happy to discuss your farm's specific needs and would love to be a part of the team with you and your nutritionist, keeping cattle healthy this winter. Please call the practice to book your scanning visit or mineral testing.

## Cattle Foot Trimming

We now have the resources to be able to offer day or half day cattle foot trimming for clients using our mobile WOPA hydraulic crush. Examples of prices ex. VAT.

Set up crush: £51.75

1 cow all four feet: £15.53

1 cow both hind feet: £10.87

1 bull all 4 feet: £18.63

Apply claw block inc. materials: £9.84

Please phone the practice and speak to Tom if you are interested. Tom has considerable experience of cattle foot trimming gained at Clyde Veterinary Group.

## Rispoval 4 Pneumonia Vaccine

Manufacturing problems mean only a limited quantity of this vaccine is available. We will supply what we have on a first come, first served basis. First and second vaccine doses must be ordered at the same time to ensure you can complete the course. If we have sold out before you order, please speak to a vet about alternative vaccines.

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