

The cows are out!

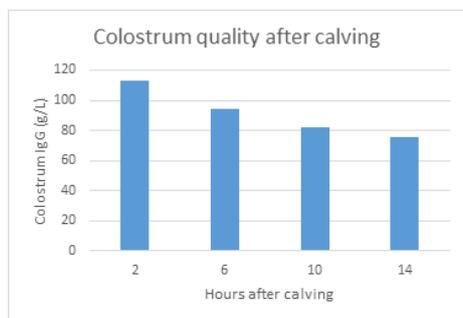
We have been treated to some days that smell of summer but the rains persist. At least that is good for grass growth. This month has been a busy one for meetings. The Medicines Masterclass has been very popular; we ran a course in the West and the East both of which were well attended. The full AI course and a refresher course ran this month too and again was very successful. Thank you to those farms who very kindly offered to host these courses. We really appreciate it and couldn't run them without your hospitality. In the coming weeks we sadly say goodbye to two long standing clients of The Livestock Partnership. Andrew Barclay of Moor farm is leaving and we wish him all the best at his new job. The Strudwick family of Castle Farm have decided to invest all efforts into the beef side of

the business and so will no longer be functioning as a dairy farm. Once again we wish you well. In the newsletter this month Elena



discusses the final points to ensure top biosecurity and Claire discusses the latest publicity campaign to highlight why farming in the UK is so great. If you fancy something more exotic Megan talks about Farming in Cuba. Get your sunglasses out, summer is on it's way. **Megan**

Further colostrum news



Following on from the article about colostrum hygiene and the impact this can have on the efficacy of the antibodies, we were discussing some other aspects of colostrum quality in one of our vet meetings the other day. Colostrum is vitally important for calf and lamb health and good colostrum provision can really help with reducing the amount of antibiotics used for youngstock disease. We were discussing the impact of delaying the collection of colostrum in dairy cows. Colostrum quality reduces significantly after calving so the sooner you collect it, the better it will be. The decrease in quality happens quite quickly, so if she is fit to go through the parlour, get her through asap. **Ben**

Biosecurity– final part

MANAGE CATTLE FEED AND WATER

To reduce the risk of indirect transmission of diseases between wildlife and cattle for example, you can minimise access to water troughs, feed stores and mineral licks using barriers: walls and doors for feed stores, electric fence that protect the face of well covered silage clamps, scaffold bars that rotate around the water troughs in the field to prevent climbing of badgers... Badgers can bathe in the water troughs and the bacteria that cause Bovine TB stays active in the water for at least 18days- few weeks, so very important is cleaning water troughs regularly. Another good practise is don't overfeed the animals and leave feed on the ground, so clean up spillages. Pasteurize milk before feeding the calves is another good practise and it prevents the risk to transmit Johne's disease, for example. Obviously is highly recommend to never feed milk from another herd!

MINIMISE INFECTION FROM CATTLE MANURE

The lifespan of most pathogens can be expanded greatly when protected in organic material, plus organic material can also inactivate many disinfectants limiting their ability to destroy the pathogens. In many cases just thorough cleaning will remove as much as 95% of the pathogens. Good biosecurity practises are: store manure for a long period before spreading on farm (at least 6months), only spread "mature" manure on arable land or pasture that is not going to be grazed by cattle for other 2 months at least and minimise aerosols and contamination of roadways when spreading. It's known that the 4% of British farmers spreads other people's slurry on their farms, if you can, try to avoid it.

In order to effectively begin to develop/improve your biosecurity program it is important to review the risk areas that may be present on your farm. Finally, if you think to improve your farm biosecurity and not sure which measures can be particularly effective in your case, let's have a chat with us! I'm sure we can help you!

Elena



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General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

On the 25th May 2018, the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into effect. As a result we have updated our Privacy Policy, a copy of which is available on request from the practice via info@livestockvets.co.uk. Over the next few weeks we will be making contact with account contacts (other than owners) for our registered client, to confirm we have consent to process your data in line with the revised legislation. It will also be necessary for those who are not registered clients of The Livestock Partnership and who wish to continue receiving our monthly newsletter, to provide consent going forward, about which we will also be in touch. Thanks in advance for your cooperation. *Emily*



Consumer Campaign...

Dairy UK and AHDB are running a campaign to remind people of their love of dairy.

This is a humorous campaign seeking to shift attitudes over time and reinforce the positive values dairy brings to day-to-day life. It began on social media, and now sees advertising at major transport hubs and some retail centres, as well as video on demand during catch up TV. This is a whole industry campaign and the Dairy Market Development Forum is encouraging everyone to get involved.

This follows the most extensive research into consumer attitudes in over a decade which looked at the demographics of consumers and why they are or are not choosing dairy. The main driver is that while 63% of people declare loving the taste of dairy, the category is being forgotten, with 56% of people not thinking about the products they are consuming day to day at all. Dairy has a great story to tell, on taste, diversity and nutrition, the campaign seeks to remind people to value that quiet, essential part of their diet that is a staple in the majority of the countries' fridges.

The campaign focuses on a younger audience, this is the group who don't fully understand the values of dairy and how it fits with their lives - the new faster paced way of cooking and convenience. One of the focus areas is "Hidden Dairy", what makes a latte great? Why is that granola and yoghurt so tasty? Dairy brings a little bit of wholesomeness into our lives and it's time to shout about it.

This is where the 'Department of Dairy Related Scrumptious Affairs' will target its activity, spreading emotive taste messages while reiterating the nutritional value of dairy.

To aid in its mission, the Department has recruited six wholesome and passionate dairy-lovers. The main social outlets for the campaign will be [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/dairyahdb) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/dairyahdb). And AHDB have developed materials to help you get involved. You can now order them from dairy.ahdb.org.uk/materials *Claire*

Farming in Cuba

In March I was lucky enough to visit Cuba and spend some time in the rural farming communities. Partly due to years of embargos, Cuba is some way behind in terms of farming. Machinery we maybe take for granted simply is not available in Cuba and in the national parks mechanised farming and the use of fertiliser and pesticides is not allowed hence images like the one in this article are commonplace. Cuba as you know is famous for their cigars and rum and we saw tobacco growing along with vegetables, coffee and sugar. Despite the rocky relationship with the US they have adopted a lot of Americanisms; they are keen Baseball players and the hoards of 1950s American cars belching out diesel fumes as they wind around the mountainous roads is a site to behold. There is a good life to be made in the countryside in Cuba; farming can be a lucrative business demonstrated by the many countryside mansions. However the work is tough without the help of machinery and many young people are moving to the cities for jobs. I would go back to Cuba in a flash for the cows, people and the piña coladas of course. *Megan*



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