

The West Sussex Grasslands Society Summer Farm Walk had a great turn out this year and was kindly hosted by James Renwick and Lewis Edge at Buddington Farm. They spoke about the successful move away from their outdated conventional parlour to Lely Robots and the difference this has made to their farm as well as the challenges of summer graz-



Images from Facebook

ing in a herd newly trained to robots. It was great to see so many of you there and a special well done goes to the Lywoods at Marshalls Farm who won first prize for the Grassland Management Award. Thanks also to Lucy Jerram for

sharing her research findings looking at the impact the robots have had on cow stress levels which is a part of her Veterinary Residency in London. Charlie and Sarah Hughes from Southview Farm provided the delicious burgers and sausages for the BBQ which I thoroughly enjoyed. See you all at the next meeting. *Megan*



Improve health and fertility in Dairy herds with genomic testing (Claire)

Dr Ian Cumming and Nicci Chamberlain from NMR will be presenting on GeneTracker genomic testing technology. The presentation will include:

- What is genomics - the basics
- Want to give it a go - 20 cow offer (dip your toe in the water, low cost low fee)
- Economic values / PLI /PTAs
How genomics could work for me

Timings - Monday 16th July 2-4pm, The Livestock Partnership, Market Square, Petworth. Light refreshments provided
Please contact claire@livestockvets.co.uk to reserve your place.



Image from google

Some Summer Sheep Jobs and Offers (Sarah)

Summertime and at last much needed good weather gives us a chance to review how lambing has gone. In the coming months you will be sorting ewes ideally according to BCS post weaning and this gives us the opportunity to target firstly our barren ewe populations. MSD's subsidised 'Flock Check' is still running until the 31st July, for 8 free blood samples looking for toxoplasmosis of EAE (enzootic abortion) in flocks not currently vaccinating. At the same time can I remind any of you considering Toxovax vaccination this year, to allow up to 2 weeks ordering time, and if you place your orders with us by the 31st August we can get the best price possible for you. It is also worth remembering that those thin ewes that we pull out and put on the best ground to enable them to regain vital BCS pre-tupping should achieve weight gain if they are healthy, parasites are under control and on plenty of grass. If a large proportion of your flock fail to do this by tupping then they can be a useful screening population for the 'iceberg' diseases. SAC are offering 12 thin ewe screens for MV @£39.00+VAT (plus our visit +time). We can then add on other tests for any other diseases we may feel are worthwhile testing for at the same time.

NOTICE BOARD

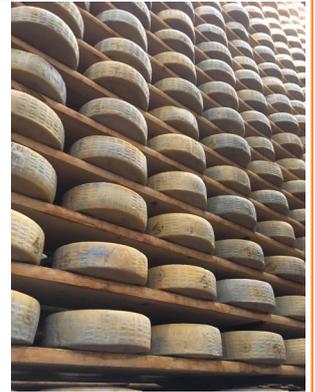
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Support Staff Changes (Ben)

We are very sad to announce that Tess, who has been with us in the office for several years is leaving us. Tess has been a key part of our support staff team, but is leaving to devote a bit more time caring for her mum. We will miss her stories of working for royalty and we might need to get a new guard dog as no longer will Teddy the Yorkie be keeping watch. We have already identified a new member of staff to come in and help with the smooth running of the office. Lucie Payton, who many of you will know from Park Farm Eartham will be joining us. Once she has got to grips with the day to day stuff we look forward to her helping with the running of our training and health club meetings.

The Italy Trip! (Peter Caines, dairy farmer in Hampshire)

On Monday 11th June a party of 27 including clients friends and staff of the TLP met at Stansted airport for an unforgettable trip to Italy. A delay at the airport did not dampen spirits and we still managed to complete the first days itinerary. This included a trip to two progressive well managed farms near Verona one with robots the other with a rotary parlour selling milk for cheese production. The quality of the stock, particularly the second farm, was superb including mainly Holstein genetics. The end of the day culminated in a visit to a winery and a beautiful meal in a lovely setting overlooking Vicenza. The second day took us to a cheese production facility followed by lunch up in the hills north of Vicenza. Again the setting was 'picture postcard' and the hospitality excellent. A trip to a more traditional unit followed where we were able to watch the whole process of cheese production and David Hamilton Fox was able to try out his limited Spanish on our Italian host!!! A visit and aperitivo at a family unit that had invested heavily in dessert production followed and as always this included much sampling of their full range of products. The day culminated in a lovely meal in Vicenza city centre where some of the party managed to extend the evening walk to 3am. The final day included a visit and lunch at a dairy farm that had a butchery and cheese production facility. Our host insisted we try his full range of cheeses and salami washed down with unlimited amounts of local wine and prosecco. Some of us had to wave the white flag at this stage after three days of nutritional and perhaps alcohol overload!! A visit to Venice was a real bonus allowing us to complete the tour on a cultural note. On a personal note it was great to meet up with some old friends but good to meet others too and there was a lovely atmosphere throughout the whole trip. None of this would have been possible without Claire and Elena. The organisation was superb and could not be faulted. The insider knowledge that Elena had of the area and the constant translation service she provided was outstanding. We challenge any other practice in the country to put on such a trip with such outstanding levels of hospitality and embracing so many facets of the dairy industry. After meeting all our hosts I was so impressed with their enthusiasm and generosity. Perhaps its not all about the bottom line and we should all farm with a smile on our face!!!!



The Livestock Partnership is a trading name of The Livestock Partnership Ltd (7785579) registered in England and Wales
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