



DECEMBER 2022

Merry Christmas and Happy new year from all of us here at Daleside, another year is coming to an end, and we would like to thank our clients for their continued support. Our Christmas opening times will vary slightly from normal but as always there will be a 24/7 emergency vet on call, see full details below.

23rd December	open as usual
Sat 24th Dec - Tue 27th Dec	office closed
Wed 28th Dec - Fri 30th dec	open as usual
Sat 31st Dec - Mon 2nd Jan	office closed
Tue 3rd Jan	open as usual

This year's Client Christmas Party will be held at the Wynnstay Arms, Ruabon on the 20th of December at (7.30pm).

We would love to see you all there for food and drinks, If you would like to attend we would be grateful if you could let us know by the 13th of December. We shall see you there!

Transition cow Management

Last month we hosted a meeting on Transition cow management, there was a great turn out and it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening hosted by Lara alongside representatives from Elanco. Before delving into the management aspect, it is important to understand what the transition period is. This is defined as the 3 weeks prior and post calving and is well and truly the period that sets up the cow for the next lactation. Many diseases are linked with the transition period, such as difficult calving, retained foetal membrane, endometritis, lameness, milk fever, mastitis, and ketosis. Ultimately all of these are going to be delaying our cows getting back in calf, with some of them adding on as much as an additional 50 days.

So how can we avoid running into these problems? Our main aims during the transition period are manage BCS and fat metabolism, manage mineral and calcium status and manage trace elements. With these aims in mind our goal is to manage change onto a higher energy diet gradually to prepare the rumen for the milking cow diet. It is important to constantly be assessing how our transition diet is performing, the best way is by monitoring the Body condition Score of the cows along side rumen fill scoring. Take a look at the table which outlines the target body condition of the cows throughout lactation and the dry period.

As part of our Vet-tech service we offer a

Timing	Seasonal Calving / Pasture Based	AYR Calving / Modern Holstein
Dry-off	2.75-3.25	2.5-3
Calving	3.0-3.25	2.5-3
Breeding	2.75 (min)	2.0-2.5
Mid-late Lactation (100 days pre-dry-off)	2.75-3.25	2.5-3.0

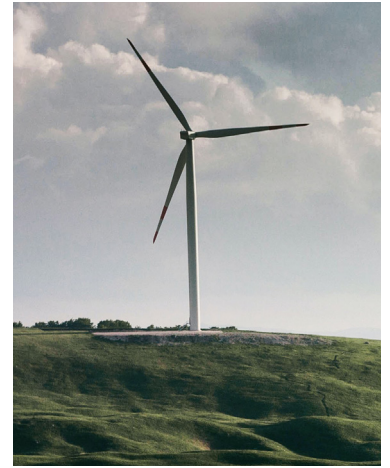
BCS service to compliment your transition cow performance analysis. So how do we go about correcting the BCS if some problems arise? The important thing to note is that change happens slowly! The best time to alter BCS is during late lactation and depending on whether your cows are too fat or too thin here are some things to consider. High BCS cows in late lactation should be fed less before dry off, once in the dry period feeding restrictions should be avoided but if necessary, should only occur up to 3 weeks pre-calving. The restrictive diet should provide at least 80% of the energy requirements. These fat cows should also be considered as candidates for a kexxtone bolus or propylene glycol dose, providing these can help the cow with glucose production which then decreases the energy gap and reduces the risk of ketosis. If we've got cows on the other end of the scale and are low in condition, then the main thing to consider is drying her off early or go onto once a day milking. During early lactation these cows should be targeted with extra feed or even consider once a day milking for the first few weeks if possible.

As well as considering BCS during the transition period there are other ways of monitoring its performance. Services that we can offer include liver biopsy to assess trace elements levels - the liver acts as a storage for most trace elements and can give us more reliable results compared with assessing blood samples. Metabolic profiling consists of taking blood samples from various groups which includes early lactation, mid-lactation and close up calving group. We can use these blood samples to assess how the diet is performing on a cow level. For more information on transition cow management or to discuss any of the services that we provide please contact us on 0198 311444.



Sustainability

We continue to look at how we can play our part in reducing our carbon footprint. We have already made changes this year at the practice to reduce waste by recycling more, and working with our suppliers to return and re-use their packaging. From January 2023 our aim is to use 'paperless' invoices and statements via email to reduce our paper use. If you have a registered email address with us then we will be adopting this method to send out the monthly invoices. If you require a paper copy then please get in touch and this can be arranged for you.



Movember

Throughout November you might have noticed something different about Guy and Bedwyr.... Yes, the moustache! Here at Daleside we are very proud to say that we have been supporting the charity Movember. The main work of the charity includes men's mental health which is a big issue in the farming community. We can't emphasise enough how important it is to talking about our problems with someone. The grand total is yet to be counted-up but thank you for your generosity. The DPJ foundation is another great charity which is a dedicated agricultural based mental health charity. They have a 24/7 confidential phone line so please contact 0800 587 4262 if something is on your mind. There is no problem too big or too small, share the load.

