

Competition time!

Head over to our social media pages for your chance to win this lambing hamper, the winner will be announced on the 14th March. Good luck!



The Use of Technology to Improve Cow Mobility Outcomes

Join us at Moreton Farm to hear more about trials using the new Cattle Eye technology to assess cow mobility, with an automated mobility monitoring system.

We will be joined by Sara Pedersen, a veterinary consultant with Farm Dynamics Ltd, who specialises in hoof health. She will be discussing the work carried out at Moreton Farm and how lameness affects the herd and business performance of any dairy farm. There will be a specific focus on the integration of technology into hoof health management programmes, and the impact that implementing best practice early detection and prompt treatment protocols has had on overall lameness at Moreton Farm. There will also be discussion about the economic savings made, return on investment, impact on greenhouse gas emissions/carbon footprint on farm based on the results seen over the course of the project.

To book your place for this event please contact Osian Hughes: osian.hughes@mentera.cymru / 07985379880

Thursday 13th March 2025, 11:00 - 14:00
Moreton Farm, Wrexham, LL13 0YH

Fly control

It may seem a bit early to be talking about reducing the impact of nuisance flies on your livestock but, starting fly control measures early in the season significantly reduces the overall number of flies by preventing the population from reaching large numbers. A single fly can lay up to 1000 eggs within 10 days, this rapid life cycle means that an infestation of nuisance flies can happen extremely quickly. Numbers within the fly population are represented by a pyramid where the youngest life stages are the most abundant, meaning that even when a small number of adult flies are visible, a much larger number of larvae and eggs are already developing on the farm.



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All of you will be familiar with pour-on products to control fly population, biological control could be a great supplementary addition. Biowasps naturally controls flies by targeting fly pupae in and around farm buildings with straw bedding or where dry manure is present. They target the housefly (*Musca domestica*), the lesser house fly (*Fannia canicularis*) and the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*). These 3 species represent about 95% of the nuisance flies present on the farm. They work by drilling a small hole inside the pupae of a nuisance fly, where they lay their eggs. These eggs will develop into a mini wasp larvae, which will feed on the contents of the fly pupa. A new mini wasp will grow inside the fly pupa about 3 weeks after parasitisation.

Once a fly pupa has been parasitised, only mini wasps can hatch from it, breaking the life cycle of the fly whilst increasing the population of the beneficial organisms. After assessing the farm yard to identify high risk areas for fly eggs we can set out a plan, and even come out to release the Biowasp larvae at the relevant times through the season.

Chemical fly control targets the adult population of flies – killing as many as possible before they can lay large numbers of eggs. It is important to have a protocol in place and treat livestock as early in the season as possible to gain the best results.

If biological fly control is of interest to you, speak to one of the team for more information, we can even arrange a visit from a Bestico representative to complete a bespoke fly control plan for your farm.



Changes to National Johne's Management Plan for Dairy farms

Key changes from 31st March 2025

- All herds must obtain an Average Test Value (ATV) for their herd to help assess the level of Johne's present and allow progress to be tracked over time
- The minimum requirement to generate an ATV will be a 60 cow random screen. The 30 cow targeted screen is no longer an acceptable option
- The creation of a national Johne's Control Index target of ATV 5.5 with a goal to achieve this by 2030

For more information on the in coming changes AHDB are hosting a webinar for farmers on 31st March, more information on how to join can be found on their website.



Preparing for turnout

Many of you will be thinking about turnout at this time of year but there are a few things to consider before doing so. Whilst the cattle are in, it is a great opportunity to get your herd vaccinated, in addition to this, it is the optimum time of year to do so with some vaccines. This is particularly true about vaccinating against Leptospirosis, as the main route of spread is through the urine and contaminated natural water courses. So as uninfected animals graze, they are more likely to be infected by urine contaminated grass and watercourses. Lungworm infection can cause severe disease in cattle, especially in youngstock in their first grazing season, but also in older cattle that haven't established their own immunity in previous years. The use of long-acting wormers and worming frequently may prevent the development of an animals own natural immunity to lungworm. Using the lungworm vaccine, Huskvac, can prevent clinical signs and lesions of lungworm by providing immunity. Alongside strategic wormer use and pasture management it can greatly reduce the incidence of lungworm.

To discuss vaccines and how they could benefit your farm please get in touch on 0198 311444

