

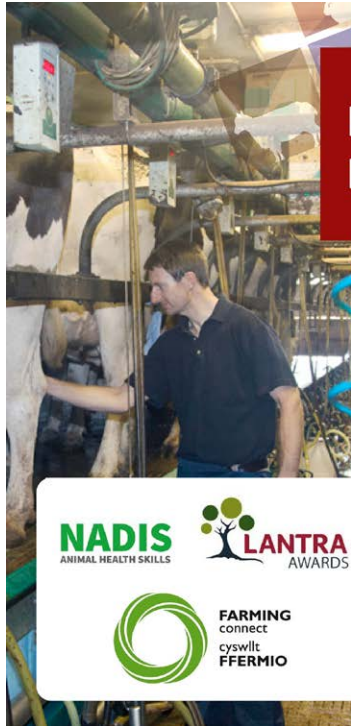


Daleside
Veterinary Group

FARM NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

Reducing Mastitis in Dairy Cattle Workshop *2nd October*



REDUCING MASTITIS IN DAIRY CATTLE WORKSHOP

Location: Holt Lodge Hotel, LL13 9SW

Date: 2nd October 2019

Time: 10:30am

- Lunch and Refreshments provided
- Clients must be registered with Farming Connect
- By attending this workshop, you will receive a LANTRA Awards certificate of attendance and Farming Connect CPD record.

Please book by contacting Lauren Arndt at lauren@dalesidevets.co.uk or by calling the practice 01978 311444.

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UK Dairy Day *11th September*

This year's UK Dairy Day will be held at The International Centre, Telford, Shropshire, TF3 4JH between 8am and 5:30pm.

Featuring;

- Trade stands featuring UK, European & International businesses
- Cattle Show
- FREE entry, Wi-Fi and car parking
- Seminars
- Practical demonstrations
- Dedicated zones to share knowledge
- Champions Dinner and Awards

It is sure to be an informative and fun filled day. As always, it's nice to see a friendly face from the practice at these events. Come and find Lauren on the XL Vets stand.

Cheshire Ploughing Match

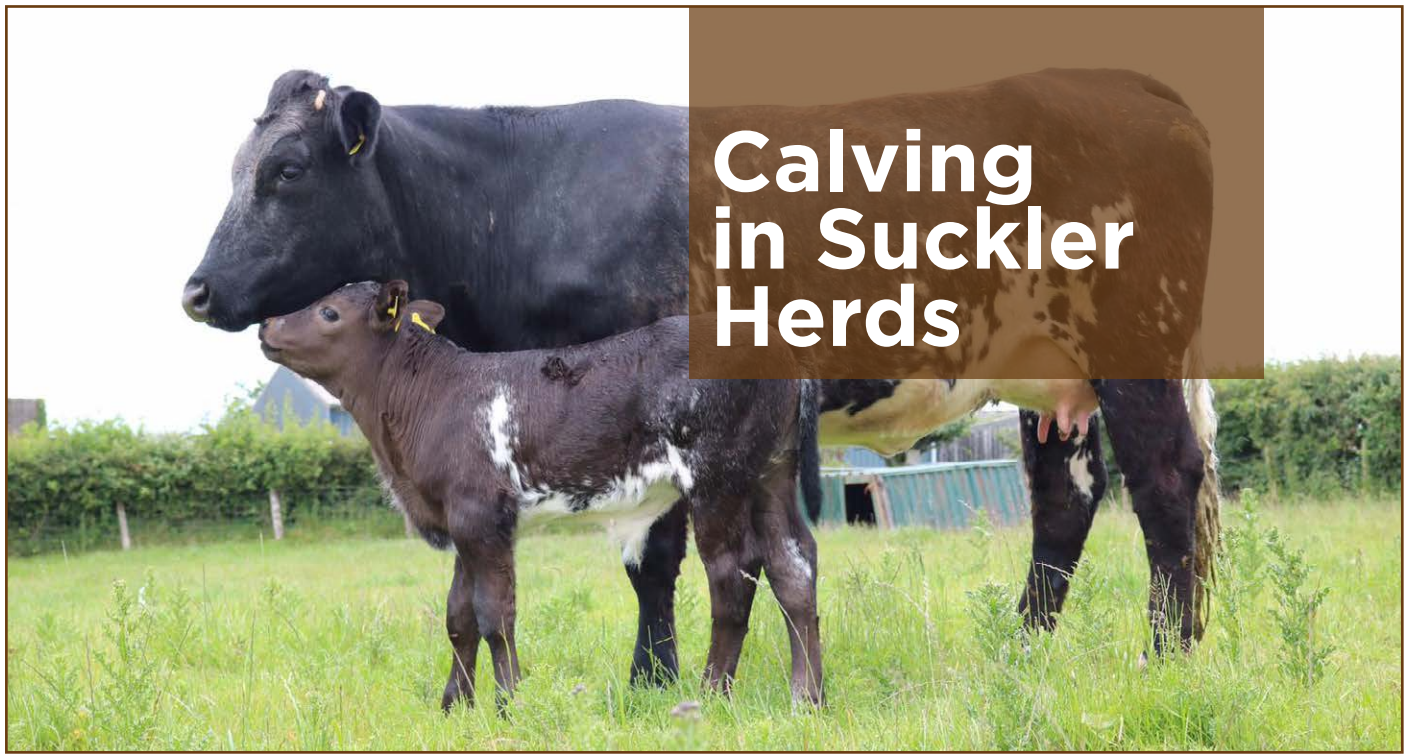
25th September

We are attending this year's Cheshire Ploughing Match which is being held on Wednesday 25th September between 9am and 5pm at;

**DODDINGTON PARK FARM,
DODDINGTON,
NANTWICH
CW5 7PU**

Please see details at <http://cheshireploughing.co.uk/cheshire-ploughing-match/>
Come along to the Daleside Stand for a cup of tea and a chat.





Calving in Suckler Herds

With Autumn calving just around the corner and Spring calvers having been with the bull for a little while now, its time to start thinking about Autumn calving management, tightening up Spring calving patterns, and confirming pregnancy in Spring calvers.

Preparing Suckler Cows for Calving

Six weeks before calving, you should aim for Autumn calving cows to have a body condition score (BCS) of 3 and Spring calving cows to have a BCS of 2.5-3. It is important to regularly monitor BCS to prepare for this time because it is important to avoid changes to BCS within six weeks of calving. Cows which are over conditioned

at calving are more likely to have calving problems which will make them less fertile in the future. Are you regularly monitoring body condition in your suckler cows? Are you confident in BCS technique? There are great guides on how to BCS produced by AHDB Lamb and Beef which include pictorial examples of each BCS. Please visit their website for access to these guides or contact a member of the farm team at Daleside who will be only too happy to discuss body condition scoring with you. Weaning calves from spring calvers at 6 months of age can achieve BCS protection to allow some mobilisation of condition when feed is less available. In contrast, delaying weaning until 10 months of age in Autumn calving herds can help to reduce the amount of excess condition put on in mid to late pregnancy. At weaning, cows should be separated according to BCS and fed accordingly. Particular attention should be paid to heifers, first calvers and thin cows to ensure they reach target weight for the next breeding season.



Maintaining a Tight Calving Pattern

It is very important to maintain a tight calving pattern for several reasons; having all cows at the same stage of the breeding cycle makes general management easier including nutrition and husbandry tasks such as pregnancy diagnosis, disbudding, castration, vaccination and worming. It also gives more even batches of calves for sale and reduces the risk of infectious disease spreading from older calves to younger calves.

Bulls need to be fit not fat

The bull is the starting point for maintaining a tight calving pattern. Bulls need to be fit not fat; body condition scoring is just as important for bulls as it is for cows. Bulls too fat will be less likely to want to work and very young overfat bulls coming straight from sale and turned out with cows are likely to rapidly lose condition and not work. Bull conformation also needs to be good. A bull breeding soundness exam is vital. Many of our clients have made use of a bull breeding soundness exam this summer. It's surprising just how many problems are picked up during these visits which would otherwise go unnoticed, therefore, extending the calving pattern. Calling us in early to assess whether a bull is fit for breeding is vital to maintaining a tight calving pattern. It goes without saying that being strict with removing the bull from the cows is also vital in maintaining a tight calving pattern. Bulls should be left with cows no longer than 12 weeks. Although it's tempting to leave the bull in to catch those last few cows, by removing him and tightening up your calving pattern, you will reap the rewards later on. If bulls haven't had a breeding soundness exam before working, the next best way to try an assess bull fertility is to get cows scanned early. Cows can be scanned easily from 42 days in calf. The target for the

percentage of cows calving in the 1st 3 weeks of the breeding season is 65%. As such, getting cows scanned from 63 days after putting the bull in with them will give you an idea if the bull is working correctly as this accounts for 42 days of pregnancy plus the length of time of the cow's oestrus cycle.

As mentioned above, BCS is vital for cows and bulls. Not only is it vital to make sure that cows are calving down in the correct BCS, the correct BCS is also vital for getting cows cycling again. Thin cows are less likely to cycle and when they do cycle, they are less likely to hold. Having cows in the correct BCS will help to tighten up calving patterns by making them ready for breeding and calving. Nutrition is important. Cows need to have the correct protein and energy levels and the correct balance of vitamins and minerals.

Breed selection and selecting within a breed are also important factors for maintaining a tight calving pattern. A cow that calves easily without assistance is in a better position to get in calf again when you want her to, therefore, decreasing the chance that you'll hold on to a cow and breed her later, out of sync with the rest of the herd due to difficulties with her previous calving.

Free Infectious Disease Testing

Controlling infectious disease also plays a big part in tightening up calving patterns. BVD, IBR and Leptospirosis can all cause issues with fertility and they are all causes of abortion. There is free testing available for these diseases in herds which aren't currently vaccinating. Please speak to a member of the team today if you aren't currently vaccinating but would like to know whether these diseases are present in your herd.



AHDB Herd Advance Scheme

We are pleased to be able to announce that the AHDB HerdAdvance Scheme will open again for applications in September.

The window of application is yet to be announced by AHDB. We will send a text out to all our dairy clients when we know the dates. HerdAdvance aims to help Welsh dairy farmers lift herd profitability and performance by improving disease prevention and control. Welsh farmers can apply to receive financial and technical support through the HerdAdvance project to improve their herd health management and disease control.

The Scheme Includes:

- Free herd health plan review
- Free biosecurity plan review
- Free animal health action plan
- Financial and technical assistance to tackle a range of animal health issues
- Semen vouchers available for breeding decisions, based on Herd Genetic Reports
- Genomic testing
- Greater on-farm efficiency and profitability
- Preventing production losses
- Reducing antibiotic usage

Digital Dermatitis Meeting and Farm walk 8th October

We are very pleased to announce that the Digital Dermatitis meeting and farm walk has been rearranged for the 8th October. For those who are unaware, unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled in April due to unforeseen circumstances with the guest speaker. However, we are lucky enough to have Sara Pedersen available once again to impart her wealth of knowledge in this area. We very much look forward to seeing you there. Please see the details below;



**DIGITAL DERMATITIS:
A SUCCESSFUL
STORY**

Guest Speaker:

Sara Pedersen an RCVS Specialist in Cattle Health and Production Veterinary Consultant will be coming to talk about successful digital dermatitis control.

Followed by a farm walk hosted by Mr Mike Done of Asney Park Farm who will be sharing his success story with us.

Location: White Horse Inn, Overton

Date: Tuesday 8th October 2019

Time: 10.30am | *Lunch included*

Please call the office 01978 311444 or email lauren@dalesidevets.co.uk to confirm attendance

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On To Pastures New

Unfortunately we will be saying goodbye to Zoe at the end of September, she has made the decision to work closer to home. She has enjoyed being part of the team here at Daleside and will be sad to say goodbye to the clients and practice team. I'm sure you will join us in wishing Zoe the best of luck.

However we are pleased to have David Hesketh returning to the Daleside team to provide locum cover from October for the Autumn and Winter.



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