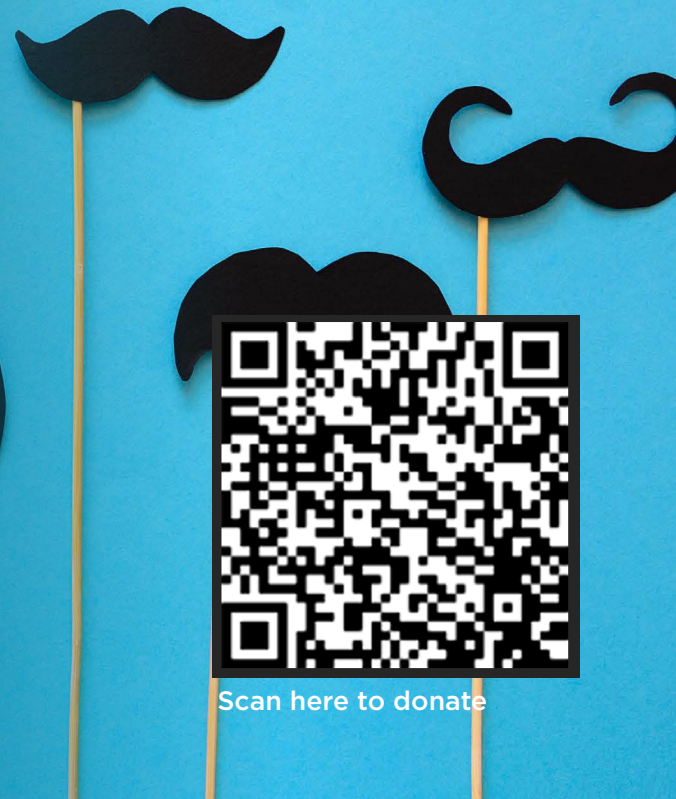


November

This November the Daleside Team will be participating in Movember.



The charity was set up in 2003 and has since funded more than 1,250 men's health projects around the world, challenging the status quo, shaking up men's health research and transforming the way health services reach and support men. Their work is focused on three main areas, Mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. Keep an eye out on our Social media for regular updates. To visit our page please scan the QR code or follow the link: <https://uk.movember.com/team/2422223> any donations (or additional participants!) would be gratefully appreciated.



Transition cow management

Our next meeting will be based on transition cow management, held on the 22nd of November at 7.30 at The Wynnstay Arms in Ruabon. The evening will consist of Housing factors, Nutrition factors and cow factors. Please contact the office in order to book your free place in the session.

Christmas party save the date!

This year's client Christmas party will be held on the 20th of December at the Wynnstay Arms, Ruabon. Further details will be released soon, we look forward to seeing you there. 




Assessing silage quality and quantity

After a record-breaking summer in terms of temperature it's fair to say it did not come without its challenges. With droughts across the country and the Wrexham area no different, grass was not in plentiful supply, but what impact will this of had on silage cuts and what are the consequences going into winter.

First, it is important to calculate how much silage do we have and compare with how much silage do we forecast to be needed (of course weather will play a big part in this, dictating when spring turnout will be). AHDB have a very useful tool to help with both assessments - to access this, please google AHDB Feed and Forage calculator, it can also be used to calculate hay and straw requirements.

Silage analysis have shown a decline in the quality of silage with the farmers weekly reporting average values of 11.2MJ Metabolisable energy and 14.2% crude protein for first cut silage with the quality declining as we progressed through summer. As well as the

drought, lower protein levels might be linked with less application of fertiliser.

This highlights the importance of getting your silage tested to understand the true value of the crop. Ideally silage clamps should be tested every 4 weeks to maintain ration consistency for high yielding dairy herds. Even grass that is properly clamped averages 12% losses in dry matter over time and with the variability seen between crops this year, regular testing is even more of a priority. Sample technique is very important as poor technique will only produce less reliable results. Samples should be taken about 25cm back from the face to represent what is currently being fed. In total, take 9 samples in a W shape and mix well and evenly in a bucket. This can then be divided into the sample bags, ensuring that most of the air is squeezed out before sealing.

