



LAMENESS

By John Walsh

ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THE LAMENESS ADVANTAGE TRAIT WHEN SELECTING BULLS?

AHDBs lameness Advantage (LA) PTAs is a useful trait to look at if you are trying to reduce the levels of lameness in your herd. This trait can be used to reduce cases of lameness in the herd and has been calculated using information about actual lameness incidents, which comes directly from on-farm lameness records via NMR and CIS.

AHDB combine this information with existing data for locomotion and feet and legs, together with bone quality scores and digital dermatitis records from breed society type classification services, as recorded at the National Bovine Data Centre (NBDC).

If you are choosing bulls the figures are expressed as a percentage and range from -5% (bad) to +5% (excellent). Every 1% change in a bull's LA predicts a change of 1% of daughters becoming lame per lactation. For example, a bull with a +5% LA is expected to have 5% fewer cases of lameness in his daughters per lactation than a bull with an LA of zero.

Earlier this year, we hosted a talk from Professor Georgios Oikonomou from the University of Liverpool, which some of you attended. He had used on farm foot trimming data to assess the accuracy of the trait. He found that the heritability of the trait was much higher than previous research had expected and animals with high scores had much lower levels of lameness incidences.

If you use our foot trimming services and are happy for Professor Oikonomou to access your data (anonymously) to add to the latest research on lameness, please drop us an email giving your permission. This will allow him to access a much bigger set of lameness records which he can compare to the traits and ultimately improve its accuracy in the future.

JOHNES UPDATE

ATTENTION DAIRY FARMERS, JOHNES DECLARATIONS:

The Johnes declarations are due on the **31st October**. Please ensure you have had your 2022 declaration completed by a BCVA Johnes accredited vet and you have an appropriate Johnes plan in place.

ATTENTION BARBERS FARMERS:

In addition to the above the BVD declarations and control plans are due by the the **31st October** in addition to Johnes.



SMALLHOLDERS MEMBERSHIP

We are excited to be launching our new smallholders club. You can sign up as a member to include the following benefits:

- £50/year
- 4 faecal worm egg counts
- 4 meetings
- 10% off all VPS products
- Access to our members Whatsapp group
- Sign up to receive our monthly newsletter

LATEST AT FRIARS MOOR:

ROYAL BATH & WEST, THE DAIRY SHOW

Our team had a great time at The Dairy Show this year. Thank you to Purbeck Cider Farm, Holbrook's for the sausage rolls and Emma Hallett for the cupcakes!

Thank you also to all that came by the stand, it was a great day and lovely to catch up with everyone!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

12TH
OCT

#ColostrumisGold

An opportunity for all our participating farms to get together to discuss practical ways of optimising colostrum transfer. All farm staff who are involved with giving colostrum to calves are welcome. **Wednesday 12th October 11am-13:30pm.** Lunch will be provided Longmoor Farm, Forest Deer, SP8 5QW

21ST
OCT

Mastering Medicines

To ensure that animals are treated effectively and safely, to protect the person administering the treatment and to ensure that your money is spent wisely, safe use of medicines must be practised at all times on farm. **Friday 21st October 11am-2pm.** Stalbridge Village Hall

JAN/
FEB

Foot Trimming

Please register your interest for the next foot trimming course by calling the farm office on 01258472314.

DRUG UPDATES:

We are switching from Bovilis IBR to Risposal IBR vaccine. These are like for like products, but please speak to a Vet if you have any questions or if you are currently using the live to dead protocol.

TRAINING, COURSES & EVENTS:

- Milksure
- Foot Trimming
- Calf Rearing
- Calving/Lambing
- DIY AI
- Mastering Medicines
- Smallholders Club
- Dairy Youngstock Discussion Group
- Dairy Sheep & Goat Conference

STAFF NEWS:

Many, many congratulations to Eleanor who has passed her Diploma in Bovine Reproduction with flying colours! We are very proud of all the time and hardwork she has put into gaining her Masters degree. Well done!



We also have a new member of staff! Many of you may have met Leanne already, who has started with us as an ATT. We are thrilled to have her on our team!



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