

## InterHerd additions



*InterHerd Plus adds speed and flexibility*

Leading dairy software system, InterHerd, is soon to have extra features added to it. The newly developed 'Plus' package will be introduced this summer and will be available to all InterHerd users, including producers, vets, dairy suppliers and advisers.

"Those on full support will get the Plus package free of charge," says NMR software developer Seamus Gilheany.

A key feature of the new package, which has been developed by NMR and Reading University-based PAN Livestock, will be more reporting flexibility.

"In addition, one of the big advantages

will be its ability to update data automatically from the web as soon as it's available," adds Mr Gilheany.

"This eliminates the need to physically instruct the system to update or to have to use discs to update.

"While updating may not seem an ordeal, for vets with 30 or 50 herds on InterHerd – or for an individual producer who may want to view new data quickly – it is time consuming. This is a very big step forward for the system."

InterHerd Plus will be rolled out to users this summer.

## NML wins Eire contract

As part of a new initiative to improve dairy herd health, Dublin-based farmer co-operative Progressive Genetics will use National Milk Laboratories (NML) to carry out disease tests on milk samples taken from its milk recorded herds. This will be an integral part of its new health screening service. Known as Progressive Herd Health, it has been developed for its 2,500 producers to encourage them to adopt regular screening for key diseases such as IBR, BVD and Johne's disease. As part of this service, producers will submit regular milk samples that will be tested by NML.

"Progressive has run a trial with us to ensure that the logistics are in place and the service is efficient and cost-effective," says NML's Hannah Pearse. "Progressive producers and their vets get results from the disease test directly via the Internet."

## Wilts award

NMR business manager Nicci Chamberlin has won the President's Award for services to the Holstein South and Wiltshire Holstein Club. She has been chairman of the club for two years. In this time Nicci has been involved with implementing revised responsibilities within the club, resulting in more members now being involved in organising events.

## Heler upgrades results service

Producers supplying Cheshire-based cheese maker Joseph Heler can now get their milk quality results on line thanks to an upgrade of the buyer's contract with NML.

"All quality results on bulk milk samples sent to NML will be available to Heler's suppliers off the web site, accessed through NML's Milk Quality Monitor system," says NML director Ben Bartlett. "This gives them immediate access to the all important milk quality data so they can keep production on track."

NML reports that other cheesemakers are committing to the NML on-line

service that brings milk quality data directly to their suppliers within 24 hours of testing. "Fast reporting of test results to producers, their vets and advisers is vital for effective herd management. The internet is an ideal tool here, particularly when used in conjunction with SMS text messaging. It is therefore no surprise that more dairy companies are looking to make this service available to their farmer suppliers."

*Award winning cheese relies on consistent milk quality*

