

Gold Cup farm on show

Winner of the 2007 NMR/RABDF Gold Cup, Ian and Sally Macalpine, is to host an open day on Wednesday June 18. All producers are invited to visit the leading

Ian and Sally Macalpine



210-cow pedigree Ribblesdale Jersey herd at Laneside Farm, Waddington, near Clitheroe.

The herd is currently averaging 6,000 litres at 6.40% butterfat and 4.10% protein and the priority for the team at Laneside Farm is to produce high value milk by paying detailed attention to the herd's genetics, nutrition and management.

RABDF chairman Lyndon Edwards, who also chairs the Gold Cup judges, will explain why a successful dairy enterprise needs to 'tick all the right boxes', while the Macalpine's vet, David Walmsley, will talk about the importance of herd health. NMR's Jonathan Davies will explain how all producers can make the most of milk samples and their milk records.

All visitors must register by calling RABDF's Laura Dickinson on 0845 4582711 or e-mail lauradickinson@rabdf.co.uk.

New face in SE

Dairy industry enthusiast Lesley Durbin has joined NMR as area field manager in the south east. Lesley is now responsible for the day-to-day management of NMR services in the region, covering Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

From North Somerset, Lesley grew up on the family farm that keeps a pedigree 300-cow Guernsey herd. She gained a diploma in agriculture and in food technology from Cannington College. Before joining NMR she spent three years as farm liaison officer for Alvis Brothers – the Somerset-based specialist cheese makers.

Lesley Durbin



Focus on Johne's disease

The NML Wolverhampton site is hosting a Johne's training day for vets, in June, organised jointly by BCVA, MHH and NML.

"Johne's is recognised as having a significant economic impact on farm through loss of production, poor health and early culling," says NML's service development manager Hannah Pearse. "Control and prevention of Johne's

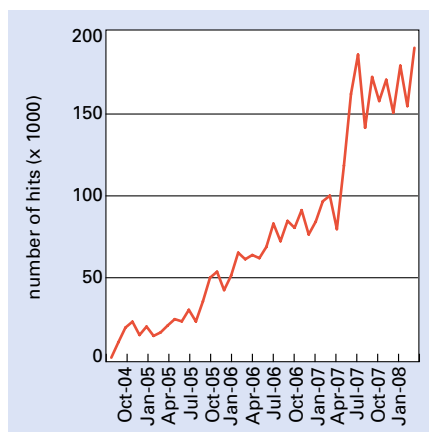
disease makes sound long-term sense. The one-day course will focus on identifying groups and individual cows most at risk and, therefore, high on the list to test."

NML carries out Johne's tests for £22 per annum for quarterly bulk milk testing. Individual cow testing is available from £2 per sample.

Companion hits hard

Since the launch of the Herd Companion website in 2004, the number of hits on the site has increased dramatically. Accessed through the NMR website and with the prime function of providing a reporting service for NMR and NML results, the site had a record 5,000 visitors in January this year. These are more than 'hits' and include genuine site users such as producers, vets and advisers.

Figure 1: Number of hits on the NMR website since 2004



Text soon to arrive

Producers will soon get a text message immediately on their mobile phones to inform them that their latest milk test results are now on the NMR Herd Companion website.

This additional service will be free to NMR users and will be a useful 'early warning' that results are now available for viewing and any necessary management action can be taken promptly.