

## All hands on deck



Samples individually identified with bar codes and tested at NML

National Milk Laboratories has taken on a number of new clients following the demise of Dairy Farmers of Britain. Processors who previously bought milk from the co-op have switched to buying directly from producers and they have committed to using NML for testing bulk milk samples for payment purposes.

“The changes we have seen during the past month have been unprecedented both in terms of the number of farms affected and the speed of the change,” says NML director Ben Bartlett. “This was a challenge for NML as there is normally a reasonable lead time to implement changes relating to a switch

in buyer. We have worked hard to ensure producers and their new buyers benefit from a seamless transition.

“Fortunately NML is already set up to work seven days a week and this has paid dividends. We have been able to react quickly, supplying new barcode labels for use on farm almost immediately and setting up new producer details on the central database.

“The challenge now is to ensure that the purchasers engaging in sourcing milk directly off farm for the first time are bedded in effectively.” New purchasers include Chestnut Dairy, Windmill Dairy, Cropwell Bishop and Dewlay.

## New ACO in Wales

Angharad Twose is the new area co-ordinator in south west Wales. Based on the Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire border, she is responsible for NMR recordings on 50 dairy farms in the area. This involves collecting data, managing the team of samplers and carrying out parlour downloads, as well as dealing with any queries.

From a family dairy farm, Angharad is a member of the Holstein Young Breeders' Club and competed at local shows.

Now her showing is confined to sheep classes with her Lleyen ewes and lambs. Prior to becoming an area co-ordinator



Angharad Twose

Angharad was an NMR recorder in the area.

## Silver medal

A new technology development, where NMR is involved in software development, has been awarded a silver medal for innovative farm technology by the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.

The new technology, co-ordinated by ITI Techmedia, will be able to remotely monitor herds to detect conditions such as oestrus and calvings.

The monitoring system features a collar with wireless sensors allowing two-way communications between the collar and base station. The company anticipates having the first of these products available later this year.

## NML pops Cork

NML has won a second disease testing contract in southern Ireland – this time from Cork-based breeding company Munster Cattle Breeders. Starting in July, bulk milk samples from Munster's milk recording lab in Mallow will be tested at NML Wolverhampton for a range of different diseases, including BVD, Lepto, IBR and Johnes' disease.

## High profile health

A delegation from Animal Health Ireland, including representatives from the Irish government, the Irish Veterinary Service and University College Dublin, visited NML and NMR in June. They looked, in detail, at the herd health planning and disease control activities being carried out and the services in place for UK producers.

The purpose of the visit was to draw on the experience of key providers in health planning in GB and also to see demonstrations of how on-line and PC-based management systems can assist in delivering effective health plans on farm.

## Royal Welsh offer

Royal Welsh show visitors can take advantage of a special offer on Johnes' disease testing. Call at the NMR stand on the edge of the ring.