

## Lab awards

NML's Hillington laboratory near Glasgow, which carries out payment testing for milk buyers and disease testing for producers, has been awarded accreditation from UKAS for the following 12 months following an audit that included rigorous checks of testing systems and processes. "This is like an MOT certificate," says quality manager Paul O'Brien. "We have worked hard to meet the standards. These standards ensure that we provide a top class testing service for our customers – milk buyers, producers and vets."



*Rigorous checks of testing systems*

## Milk quality finalists

Finalists in the Milk Link Hygiene Awards, sponsored this year by National Milk Laboratories (an NMR subsidiary), have been announced.

Judged in two categories – large and small herds – all Milk Link suppliers are assessed on their NML results for SCCs and Bactoscans, averaged over the year.

The line up is:

Small herds – supplying less than 500,000 litres a year:

- Ivor Dennis, Holsworthy, Devon - SCC 34,000/ml, BSC 8
- Symes Partners, Misterton, Crewkerne, Somerset – SCC 53,000/ml, BSC 7

- Burden, Launceston, Cornwall – SCC 69,000/ml, BSC 9

Large herds – supplying more than 500,000 litres a year

- Martin and Caroline Hurford, Colyton, Devon – SCC 64,000/ml, BSC 7
- Morrow family, Ladock, Cornwall – SCC 87,000/ml, BSC 10
- M J and C Cockburn, Soulby, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria – SCC 67,000/ml, BSC 13

All finalists have been visited by a panel of judges and the winner will be announced at Milk Link's AGM on July 6, 2009.

## Open season

NMR has a programme of open days this summer including two later this month.

The first is on Tuesday June 23 in Northern Ireland when NMR and RABDF invite producers to visit Iain and Joyce McLean's Priestland Farm, Bushmills, County Antrim. As Gold Cup runners-up in 2008, the McLeans were winners of the NMR Silver Salver. Contact Laura Dickinson on 0845 4582711.

Wednesday June 24 is a chance to see the Colnett Cup winners 2008, presented to the best dairy herd in Gloucestershire, at Adam and Ben Pullen's Home Farm, Brookfield Lane, Churchdown, Gloucester.

This event is part of the British Friesian Breeders Club centenary celebrations and is sponsored by NMR. Contact Ben Pullen on 07747 082864.

## Ring test success

All three NML/NMR labs have had excellent results in latest somatic cell count international ring trials funded by DairyCo. These trials are run four times a year. "The fact that these laboratories are participating and we are getting feedback on the accuracy of the cell count results they produce is reassuring for producers," says DairyCo research manager Elizabeth Berry.

## Gold Cup open day pulls crowd

The NMR/RABDF Gold Cup open day earlier this month, held at 2009 winner Nick Cobb's Dorset-based farm, attracted more than 650 farmers. Among these were a group of 45 producers from Northern Ireland who included the open day as part of their tour to England,

organised by NMR manager Chris Keys. And producers also flew down from Scotland to visit the 750-cow unit. "Visitors were also keen to hear Nick Cobb's story," adds NMR's Jonathan Davies. "He's developed some innovative ideas in managing a large herd.

Producers were keen to come and look for themselves." NMR took the opportunity to demonstrate the new InterHerd Plus at the open day. The new system will now go into selected vet practices before being released more widely in September.

*Standing room only*



*Open day attracted producers from far afield*

