

## Johne's workshops

NMR is continuing its training programmes this year for the Herdwise Johne's screening service, which was introduced in September 2008. Two workshops will be held this month for vets to demonstrate how it can play a vital part in their Johne's disease control programmes on farm. Both will be held at vet practices – in Devon and in Cheshire.

The first of its kind in the UK, NMR's Herdwise Johne's screening is carried out on samples already collected

through the regular NMR milk recording service. The hassle-free nature of the service and the automatic feed back of results through the vets, and the reliability of results, is making this a popular option among those seeking to control the costly disease. Left unmonitored, Johne's disease has long-term effects on herd viability.

Around 25 vet practices are expected to be represented at each meeting and there are plans to hold more workshops in 2009.

## Sainsbury's training

NMR and EBVC (Evidence Based Veterinary Consultancy), which is used by Sainsbury's to help its milk suppliers improve herd production, health and welfare standards, are holding a series of training sessions.

Based around NMR's Herd Companion system and the EBV website, the sessions help producers to identify any weak areas and set realistic targets.

"This is all part of Sainsbury's dairy health scheme," says vet Richard Cooper, who is involved in the training on behalf of EBVC. "We want producers to

understand that this is a dynamic process – not one where they tick all the boxes once a year. We need to highlight the areas that could present problems and, through Herd Companion and the EBV website, compare performance across herds and set realistic targets.

Producers will be encouraged to review their herd's performance through the year. "This may only take 10 minutes three times a year and the system will allow them to do this without trawling through reams of paper," adds Mr Cooper.

## New manager joins S and E team



Emma Constantine

Emma Constantine is the new area field manager for NMR in the south east. Her area includes Kent, parts of Hampshire and counties to the north west of London.

Part of the south and east team, she is responsible for managing the area coordinators, milk recorders and samplers in the area and the running of the day-to-day milk recording service and NMR's dairy management systems.

An agriculture graduate of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, she has worked on dairy units in the UK and on units in south and western Australia.

She has also worked as a nursing assistant in a veterinary practice in her home town of Halifax, West Yorkshire.

## Free performance training

Thanks to funding from the Vocational Training Scheme of the England Rural Development Programme, more than 850

*Producers tune into systems at recent workshop in south west*



producers have attended 'herd performance review' workshops across the country during the past two years.

More workshops are being held this year with February's venues planned in Staffordshire, Powys, Gloucestershire and North Yorkshire. A full list of venues can be viewed on the NMR website at [www.nmr.co.uk](http://www.nmr.co.uk).

"Producers can look at their own milk recording data on the laptops," says James Hanks, who runs the courses on behalf of NMR and Pan Livestock Services.

"They use a combination of the Herd Companion and InterHerd systems. These help to highlight the strengths and weaknesses of their herds. Producers are encouraged to work with their vets and advisers using this information.

"It frequently surprises producers just how much information is easily available and just how much it can tell them. And no previous experience with computers is necessary," adds Mr Hanks.

For further information contact James Hanks on 07974 404614 or [james.hanks@panlivestock.com](mailto:james.hanks@panlivestock.com).