

Gold qualifiers up 10%

Almost 1,000 herds have qualified for the 2009 NMR/RABDF Gold Cup this year.

To enter the competition they now need to complete the questionnaire and milk recorders will be on hand to help if required. "We have a 10% increase in qualifying herds this year," says competition co-ordinator Frank Armitage. "We'd like as many as possible to complete the entry form."

Past runner up and winner of the NMR Silver Salver in 2008, Iain McLean, from Antrim, Northern Ireland, says: "I would

encourage anyone who has qualified to enter. It was the first time we'd filled out a form like this, but it made us reflect on what we were doing in different areas of the business. And we never, for one minute, thought we'd end up polishing the Silver Salver."

All entry forms must be returned by April 14, 2009, and finalists will be informed in June. The winner of the Gold Cup 2009 will be announced at the Dairy Event and Livestock Show, Stoneleigh, on September 16, 2009.

Winner of NMR Silver Salver 2008 Joyce and Iain McLean with Philip Kirkham (left), Chairman NMR, and Lady Byford (right), President RABDF



New manager in Cumbria



*Vicki Edgar,
area field
manager*

Vicki Edgar is the new NMR area field manager in Cumbria. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of NMR services in the county and for liaising with producers and vets on the wider range of NMR services, such as disease testing, Herd Companion and InterHerd.

From a farming family, Vicki studied dairying at Lancashire College and has worked on a number of beef, sheep and dairy farms in the area. She also set up a poultry housing business.

RVC to NML

NML disease testing centre has won a contract from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) to carry out disease testing as part of a three-year biosecurity project. NML will test blood samples from 50 cows in 120 beef herds for BVD, Lepto, IBR and Johnne's disease, amounting to 18,000 tests in the trial period.

Cornish herd moves into top place

The top Holstein herd, ranked on fat and protein production, is Neville and May Morrow who run the herd at Treveale Farm, near Truro, Cornwall with their daughter and son-in-law Wendy and Paul Broad and son Irwin. With 185 qualifying lactations, it moves up from 24th in 2007 with 851kg of fat and protein and 11,258kg of milk on twice-a-day milking. Sharing second place is 2007's number-one herd, owned and run by the Higgins family from Wilderley Hall Farms, Shropshire, with an average yield of 845kg of fat and protein and 12,272kg of milk for the 157 cows on three-times-a-day milking.

Also in second place and on three-times-

a-day milking is Graham and Amy Harrison from Cumbria. The herd moves up from 42nd in 2007 and its 189 qualifying cows produced 12,245kg of milk.

Leading the Holstein genetic merit rankings is Grosvenor Farms' Hatton Heath herd with an average herd PIN value of £29, followed in second place by 2007's number one, the Moet Nucleus herd with a PIN of £28. Grosvenor Farms' Chapel House herd moves from fifth to third this year with an average PIN of £27.

The Tomkinson's Jersey herd from Suffolk leads the breed for production with 687kg of fat and protein and an average

yield of 7,129kg. In the Ayrshire breed Druids Lodge Partnership moves up from fourth to first with a fat and protein yield of 658kg and 9,325kg of milk.

The top British Friesian herd remains Richard and Joanne Bell's from Nerewater Farm, Cumbria with 646kg of fat and protein and 8,571kg of milk.

And the leading Shorthorn herd is John Hayward's from Nottingham. The top Guernsey is R J Falla's herd from Guernsey.

All results can be accessed, free of charge, by NMR customers off the NMR web site. A user name and password, available from NMR customer services, are required.