

More buyers on board

Two new milk buyers have appointed NML as their payment testing laboratory and from February milk samples from all their suppliers will be quality tested through one of NML's labs.

One is the Caledonian Cheese Company, part of Lactalis McLelland, who is well known for the production of quality cheddar, including the Seriously Strong and Galloway ranges.

Cheese produced at the Stranraer factory is made from milk supplied by the 169 producers. It requires top quality milk and, says Caledonian, regular milk quality testing plays an important role in this as it helps producers meet the required criteria and maximise the returns they see from their milk.

Buckley Farm Dairy in Derbyshire is also now using NML for bulk milk testing. This dairy has 60 local



suppliers and is involved in the supply of a range of dairy products to independent stores in the region, as well as certain national chains.

New manager in North East Wales

Sue Turley has joined NMR as area field manager for north east Wales. Based in Newtown, mid Wales, Sue completed a NCA and a NCD at Sparsholt College in Hampshire. She returned to the family farm in Warwickshire for a time before moving on to work as a mastitis technician and more recently as an artificial inseminator.

Keen on all aspects of livestock production, Sue spends her spare time tending to her Large Black pedigree pigs.

Sue Turley



Companion for feed advisers

National feed company NWF Agriculture, is using Herd Companion on farm to help produce even more precise ration formulations.

"All our feed specialists can now use an on-farm report based on NMR data that, with the producer's permission, we can access from Herd Companion," explains NWF Agriculture's national business development manager Michael Phillips. "This report explores important

production related trends in milk composition, cow fertility and production. Illustrated in graphs, it gives our specialists a clear snapshot of what is going on in the herd and pointers as to where there may be problems. We can use this, along with an assessment and physically observing the cows, to make timely management changes. The report is proving invaluable on farm."



Use of AI codes urged

Using official AI codes for bulls, rather than herd book numbers and short names, is the only safe and fully reliable means of ensuring sires are correctly identified on NMR records.

As the Holstein Friesian codes are 'split' this month into 'HO' for Holstein sires and 'BF' for registered British Friesian bulls, independent breeding consultant Kevin Lane is asking breeding companies to ensure these codes are more readily available to producers.

AI codes for bulls are issued by NMR and Mr Lane has been auditing the list and issuing codes for new bulls for the past 10 years. "This is a very accurate and fool-proof list," he says.

"The AI code is like our National Insurance number and is completely unique to that bull. It is in the AI companies' interest, for their genetic evaluations, to see these codes used on all records and this in turn will benefit the whole industry. It also saves a lot of confusion on the farm."