

Foxminster Holsteins take top spot



Left to right: Colin Luther with his wife Barbara, his son Stuart and daughter Jacqui Dooker

The Luther's Holstein herd, based in Poole in Dorset, has moved up 25 places into top spot in the latest NMR Annual Production Report. This herd, with 71 qualifying 305-day lactations, yielded 853kg of fat and protein and 11,771kg of milk.

In second place is the Higgins family's Wilderley Hall herd with an average of 852kg of fat and protein and 12,726kg of milk. Third place remains with Henry Lewis of Tack Farms, Herefordshire, with 847kg of fat and protein and 12,180kg of milk. The top Shorthorn herd is John Hayward's from Nottinghamshire and the Tinker's Park Head Herd from Yorkshire is top in the

Ayrshires. Little change was recorded in the Jersey and Guernsey breeds this year with the Mahon's herd from Jersey and the Martel's Guernsey herd from Guernsey remaining in top places. Nerewater Farm, Cumbria, moved into top place in the Friesian rankings.

Leading the Holstein genetic merit rankings for the third year running is Grosvenor Farms' Hatton Heath herd with a PLI of £90. Sharing second place, with a PLI of £79 are two Devon herds owned by A G Ludwell and W H Ley. All results are available to NMR customers on the NMR website using an individual password available from NMR on 0844 7255567.

Holsteins reach record yields

The latest Annual Production Report published by NMR for the year ending September 2010 shows that Holsteins have recorded their biggest increase in yield for seven years. The average is now 8,432kg of milk with 595kg of fat and protein. A small increase in somatic cell count (SCC) was recorded but the calving interval remained at

428 days. Both the Jersey and Ayrshire breeds recorded increases in average milk yield to 5,744kg and 6,640kg respectively.

Contrary to trends in other breeds, the Shorthorns recorded a significant fall in average SCC and calving interval to 176,000 cells/ml and 397 days respectively.

New Nordic Star manager

Nordic Star, one of the NMR group of companies that supplies ear tags for livestock, has appointed Rachael Ellis as product manager. A new post, Rachael is based in the Harrogate office but is responsible for the sales and marketing of the product portfolio nationwide. Prior to joining Nordic Star, Rachael spent seven years as customer sales

support manager for a medical company.

"I've already visited some producers to get an insight into the strengths of the products from the end users," says Rachael. "It's clear that Nordic Star tags are favoured for their quality and retainability, value for money and for the customer service."

Gold Cup day

Winners of the 2010 NMR/RABDF Gold Cup, Chris and Michael King, will host an open day at Two Pools Farm on Wednesday June 29.

NML director Ben Bartlett will speak on Johne's disease control.

"An initiative has led to 600 producers carrying out 30-cow milk sample tests for Johne's this year," says Mr Bartlett. "This is a valuable starting point for a Johne's disease surveillance and control plan.

"Producers are becoming aware of the huge benefits of proactive disease control." More details from the RABDF website.

Top daily yielders

NMR's latest listings of cows that have reached the 100-tonnes-of-milk milestone in March and April are now on the NMR website. Ranked on lifetime daily yield (LDY), the two top cows for March and April are from Nick Cobb's herd, based in Dorchester in Dorset, and the third is from the Rudd's herd, from Wigton in Cumbria. All three cows have completed their seventh lactation. The full list is published on the NMR website.

- 1 Chalclyfee Rudolph Ringitt EX91 – 101,177kg of milk, LDY 29.38kg/day.
- 2 Chalclyfee Dante Enid VG88 – 100,156kg of milk, LDY 28.81kg/day.
- 3 Cawsand Outside Debbie 11 – 102,734kg of milk, LDY 28.80kg/day.



Rachael Ellis, product manager Nordic Star