

## 'Hotter' heat detection

Increased sensitivity highlighting cows on heat even more clearly is a key new feature in the latest version of NMR's electronic heat detection system Silent Herdsman. The latest version, out this autumn and currently upgrading all current systems out on farm, also groups cows and this again makes it even easier for operators to spot bulling cows.

"The improvement in sensitivity selection and the ability to group animals on the system means that

users can customise Silent Herdsman to suit their set-up," says NMR's Jonathan Davies. "It allows cows to be grouped in stages of lactation or lactation number for example. And if a group of, say, heifers is very active then the sensitivity can be 'turned down' so bulling heifers show up more clearly. Likewise the sensitivity for groups of older cows can be turned up so that small changes show up very blatantly. This makes it easier to spot variations and improves the interpretation and accuracy of data." Developed by Embedded Technology Solutions, Silent Herdsman uses advanced motion technology to monitor and record individual cow behaviour 24/7.

Data passes from an intelligent processor situated on a robust cow collar to a farm base station and then on to a touch screen monitor typically located in the dairy.



## Tag & Test takes off

The decision by large dairy herds to introduce NML's Tag and Test service for all dairy calves, along with its use in more beef herds, are thought to be a major contributor to the increase in throughput of tissue samples at its testing laboratory.

"We've seen an increase of 82% in the number of tissue samples submitted for BVD antigen testing during the past six months," says Nordic Star's Rachael Ellis.

"Producers are recognising that Tag

and Test is a very easy and accurate way of picking up PI animals early in life.

"There's no need for the vet to visit to take blood samples and the tissue sample test is 99.9% accurate.

"It can be carried out within 48 hours of birth, which means that identification requirements are met at the same time as testing for BVD.

"In addition, it is a more effective test for BVD than a blood test in these first few days of life."



For more information on NMR products and services contact customer services, 0844 7255567,  
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## Johne's tracker

Reports from NML's disease surveillance service, Herdwise, now include a historic assessment of Johne's prevalence in the herd. "This allows producers and their vets to check trends over time and will be of great benefit to those in their second and third year of Johne's surveillance testing through the service," says NML manager Steve West.

"Johne's control is generally a lengthy process so being able to view progress from one year to the next ensures that control plans are on track."

To view this new report, click on the Historic summary button within the Herdwise section on the NMR Herd Companion website [www.nmr.co.uk](http://www.nmr.co.uk).

## Tag approval

Hot off the press is confirmation that Nordic Star's Lab Tag, Buddy Button and EID Button tags, that are already approved for use in Britain, are now approved for use in Northern Ireland. The Lab Tag has been approved as a primary tag for cattle while the Buddy Button and EID Button tags are approved as secondary tags for cattle.

## Chart toppers

Ranked on lifetime daily yield, here are the top three cows from August's group of 100-tonne cows.

In top place is Thuborough Freda 377 who has given 107,699kg of milk in six lactations and has a LDY of 32.41kg. She is from Willie Ley's Devon-based herd at Sutcombe.

In second place is Wings Bombay Topsy who has given 102,175kg of milk in five lactations and has a LDY of 31.47kg. She is from the Duckworth's herd in Granborough, Buckinghamshire. Third this month is Chalclyffe Ruben Jane, who has produced 102,871kg of milk in seven lactations and has a LDY of 31.39kg. She is from Nick Cobb's Dorset-based herd in West Chaldon.