

Quality improvement award

NML has teamed up with Milk Link and Deosan in launching a new competition for Milk Link members. Open to all Milk Link producers, it is especially designed for producers who want to improve their milk hygiene and herd health.

As part of the competition, entrants will have milk samples tested through NML's new PCR service that tests DNA to identify mastitis-causing pathogens. They will also get assistance from Diversey and Milk Link to help tackle any pathogens that are identified as problems.

The award will go to the most improved herd on the Milk Hygiene Award list in the year to March 31, 2011.

Phil Cork, Milk Link membership manager, welcomes the new initiative. "Raised somatic cell counts remain an issue on some dairy farms so we are

pleased to be working with NML and using the new PCR technology, that can identify the harmful bacteria far more accurately than previous technologies, and also to be offering guidance on how best to deal with any problems.

"Tackling increased cell counts is good news for the milk purchaser, the producer and of course it is good news for the health of the cows."

Testing samples using PCR technology



NMR top 10 in national seminar

Organisers of this year's Large Herd Seminar have focused on lifetime yields as their theme for the event on June 22/23 at Woodbury Park Hotel, Exeter.

Evidence Based Veterinary Consultancy (EBVC) and Model Nutrition Dairy Consulting have taken data from 10 top NMR herds. They will demonstrate how these herds achieve high lifetime yields.

Maximising lifetime yields is central

to profit and controlling the carbon footprint of the modern dairy herd. "Having access to this NMR data has given us a detailed understanding of how these best farms perform," says EBVC's Dr Tom Chamberlain.

"We will look at aspects of production, nutritional health and fertility in these herds. Seeing how the best herds achieve such good results will be very valuable to other commercial dairy units."

Latest 100 tonners

One hundred NMR recorded cows broke the 100-tonne barrier this April and the top three, ranked on lifetime daily yield, are all from herds in the south west.

1. Chalclyffe Aeroline Jane EX92 produced 111,881kg of milk in seven lactations. From Nick Cobb's herd, West Chaldon, Dorchester, she has achieved a lifetime daily yield of 28.84kg a day.

2. Molton Home Luxton 10 from Fortescue Farm Partnership's Home Farm herd, Filleigh, Barnstaple, Devon yielded 101,298kg of milk in eight lactations and has a lifetime yield of 26.51kg a day.

3. The Morrow's Maymor Jo Jo 19 from Treveale Farm, Ladock, Truro, Cornwall with a yield of 101,393kg in seven lactations has a lifetime yield of 25.85kg a day.

All NMR recorded cows that have achieved 100 tonnes of milk in their lifetime will be awarded with certificate and a voucher redeemable against NMR microbiology testing services. The list will be published eight times a year to coincide with CowManagement publications. A full list will appear on the NMR website each time.

Yorks Gold Cup day set to attract crowds

NMR/RABDF Gold Cup winner 2009, Geoff Spence, will open his farm gates at Lowfields Farm, Brompton, Northallerton to visitors eager to see the high performance Miresdale dairy herd.

Geoff is keen to promote his team both on and off the farm who, through their attention to detail, play a vital part in the unit's success.

Open to all milk producers, the programme starts at 10.30am with presentations from his team members including vet Mark Glover, KW's Steve Allen and Mike Marsden, Paul Dennison from Strutt and Parker and Hannah Pearse from NMR.

For more information contact RABDF on 0845 4582711

Part of the team: Geoff Spence, Mark Fawcett, Chris Spence

