Seasonal hygiene challenge

While the national somatic cell count average in bulk milk has improved, as we move from summer into autumn, NML has recorded an increase in both bactoscan and thermoduric results. "A fall in cell counts and an increase in bactoscan results follows a seasonal trend," says NML’s Ben Bartlett. Thermoduric bacteria can survive pasteurisation and can, therefore, affect product quality and shelf life. “The potential impact of thermoduric bacteria is becoming increasingly recognised and so it is important that they are kept under control. Ideally, thermoduric counts should be under 500 cfu/ml,” he adds. Managing thermoduric bacteria is all about cleanliness – clean cows and a clean parlour. If a problem does crop up then it is important to establish the nature of the bacteria in the milk, as this can indicate the cause of the problem. NML offers a parlour hygiene test, using a standard bulk milk sample. Priced at £25, the test helps to verify whether the issue is caused by faecal contamination or a build up of deposits in the parlour. Download a step-by-step guide to tackling high thermoduric counts, from: www.nationalmilklabs.co.uk/milk-quality/thermodurics

Competition winner

Derbyshire-based producer Peter Berresford will now be using the sophisticated, modular cow health and fertility monitoring system SenseHub, to assist with managing his 130-cow Ayrshire herd. He won the system, which includes 20 eSense flex tags and a SenseHub collector, in the competition that NMR ran during the 2018 summer show season. Cow activity data collected through SenseHub at Dale Head Farm, in Tideswell, will be used to detect heats in this all year-round calving herd. It will also monitor rumination and eating patterns and this data will be used to fine tune rationing and for the early detection of any problems in feeding and cow health.

Helen Whittaker hands over the first of 20 eSense flex tags to prize winner Peter Berresford

Cornish line-up

Two NMR staff bring a wealth of experience to their new roles in the NMR Cornish team. Loretta Hughes is now customer account manager in Cornwall, moving from area field manager. She joined NMR in 2010. Kath Annear joins NMR as the area field manager for Cornwall and west Devon. She moves to NMR from Cornwall Farmers and Mole Valley Farmers.

Uniform workshops

A series of Uniform Agri workshops is planned from January to March 2019, across Britain. These workshops will focus on the latest Uniform functionality and new reports, which are available in the 5.4 release of Uniform. These include a breakdown of the milk, fertility and health performance indicators that will contribute to improved herd management. Dates and booking instructions can be found at: https://mailchi.mp/0635f2a363c0/workshop-invite-963885 or from NMR Customer Services.

Diary 2019

If you are looking for a Christmas gift for a dedicated dairy enthusiast, who likes to keep track of all events, then the 2019 NMR dairy could be the answer. Copies are available for £29.50 +VAT, including delivery, from NMR Customer Services.