Two in a row!

Congratulations to Mr Gawthorp from Bradford for winning the highest prize native bull or heifer at Otley Auction. The calf was an angus bull and made £310, sold to Mr Foster. The photo shows Mr Gawthorp on the left extracting the cash from Jake’s mints. Mr Foster was so keen to get his purchase home we didn’t get chance to take a photo. Mr Gawthorp also won our last calf show with a continental heifer, can he make it three in a row and win again next month? These calves are fed on our MMU+Surge milk replacer and our calf weaner pellets.

A moment on the lips, a lifetime on the hips

Stuart Holmes

The aim of feeding the spring calving suckler is to supply everything the growing fetus needs without the cow getting too fat. Over winter, cows fed ad libitum silage are likely to get too fat. Using a mix of straw and silage keeps the cow full all day, but restricts her energy intake.

In the pre-calving period, vitamin and mineral supplementation is essential in particular magnesium, selenium, iodine and vitamin E. Our dry cow minerals are formulated to reduce the risk of both milk fever and grass staggers in spring. Also, iodine, zinc, selenium and vitamin E are included for calvage and colostrum quality.

If body condition has not been well managed by 150 days before calving, it must be adjusted quickly to avoid changes in condition in the last 50 days of pregnancy. In the last 50 days before calving don’t try to change body condition or it will affect the calf. Even for dry sucklers a small amount of protein (12% DM) needs to be fed. This can be achieved using feeds such as rapeseed meal, protein meals, wheat or barley distillers.

For more information visit our website www.wejameson.co.uk or ring us to discuss your options.

Contractors / Services

Agricultural Electrician, J R Graham. Fault finding and repairs, breakdowns, new installations, lighting, security. 3-phase. Tel John on 01765 620935 or 01423 323438.

Wanted farm plastic – delivered or collected, ring for 07791335602.
Fencing, Forestry and Groundworks Contractor. WM Donaldson 5t digger for hire, with or without operator. Andrew Ditching, lane repairs etc. Simon Poulter 318230.
Mill & mix services. All areas covered. Tel: 07971 776666.

Fencing Contractors, David Robinson. Leyburn 07762 317201.
Agri Pest management. Agricultural pest control rats, mice, mole, rabbits & insects. Tel. Nick 07716 467460 or 01765 640 867.
Silting and over-seeding in one pass. Sward lifting, slurry tanking, ploughing, man & tractor and concrete grooving. Tel. Mike 01423 780 207 or 0113 2672921.
Rhodes Feed Services for farm rolling, grinding, mill & mix services. All areas covered. 01751 460203 or 07786 292 417.
All types of fencing work. 3 tonne Digger hire. Ditching, lane repairs etc. Simon Poulter 07751 553504.
St digger hire for, with or without operator. Andrew Donatson 07753 657602.
Fencing, Fencing and Groundworks Contractor. WM Rural Contractors, Yorkshire. Contact Will McDermott 07791353602 for a competitive quote.

Wanted tame pastur – slaverow or cowcaze, or ring for a quote on Sally 01751 288112 or 0751 248174 or emma martinbirdsall20@gmail.com

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For Sale and Wanted

Kaanen K160 Year 2008 New Model Diet Feeder with Knives. Good working order. £10,000 + vat. Tel: 07971 776671.


Two pedigree Aberdeen Angus Bulls. 18 months old. BVD, IBR, Lepto and Johne’s free. Tel: 01765 658646. 15 individual Calf Hutches including a race plus 2 Multi Hutches Rustyford Area. Tel: 07834523519.

Pedigree Beef Shorthorn bull. (from Upsall herd) approx. 4 years old. Easy calving, cubicle trained, BVD vaccinated. Pedigree Beef Shorthorn bull. (from Upsall herd) approx. 4 years old, very quiet, very easy calving, cubicle trained, BVD vaccinated. Tel: 07971 776666.

Part time job available – on a mixed farm near Masham. Call Alex on 07773 071594.

starey’s farmhouse roos, horns, navel, sharpens, marmalade, marmalades, saucers and cakes for sale. Tel. 01423 780 207 or 07776 640264.
Chocoballs. Well bred & ready for work. Tel. Jenny Clayton 01347 823645 or 07961 918027.

Angus bulls for sale or hire. Peter Turnbull 01347 868236 or 07836 370253.


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A moveable feast  
David Lewis

The key issues we’ve seen with first cut silages this year are that some are low in energy, wet, with low sugar and low protein. So what does this mean for dairy rations this winter?

Silages that are low in sugar can also be unpalatable and affect dry matter intake. Cows love fodder beet and it can improve intake and often milk protein too. Of course moderation is important as too much sugar can result in an upset rumen which also has a detrimental effect on milk fat. Ask Nick Bowkett for a price for fodder beet.

Low energy silages are a particular problem this year. Barley and wheat are sensibly priced and can help bridge the energy gap. But great care is needed not to over-do starch, particularly with wet silages with a high acid load. Rolled maize gives a form of starch which is kinder on the rumen, with some starch bypassing the rumen altogether. Both barley and wheat can be treated to also provide slower release energy with some bypass starch (ask us about Pro-wheat & barley).

Brewers’ grains can be a useful addition where forages are short of protein. They can also improve palatability of the diet. However, care must be taken as grains can be oily so the overall oil level of the diet needs to be checked. Also, at 20-25% DM, coupled with wet silage, a wet stodgy diet can ensue. Ask Nick Bowkett for a price.

Don’t get caught out  
Kathryn Lawson

From 1st January 2015 all sheep (not previously tagged) must be tagged with an EID tag; this can be a single EID slaughter tag; for sheep intended for slaughter within 12 months of age OR an EID tag with a visual match up; for sheep intended for breeding or will reach 12 months of age before slaughter. If you’re unsure what you should be doing, call in for a chat.

Keeping the sniffles away  
Dr Ruth Lawson

One of the huge influences on pneumonia in calves is the presence of ammonia. Exposure to even low levels of ammonia weakens the cilia lining the trachea, making it easier for bugs to enter the respiratory tract. Basically, the cleaner and drier the calf’s bed, the less ammonia – bugs like moisture. If you kneel on the bedding and your knee get wet, ammonia will be being produced. Frequent mucking out and plenty of bedding reduces ammonia production, as does clean calves. When you kneel down (at calf nose level) there should be no smell, if there’s a smell, there’s ammonia. Extra bedding or cleaning out is needed in areas where calves congregate such as feed troughs or automatic feeders.

Ventilation is important too, often straw bales are stacked in calf housing, but these can cut off air flow. After an hour in calf housing with 100% fresh air moving through it, 90% of the bugs inside will be killed. This falls to about 40% of bugs killed when fresh airflow is halved. Also, lowering stocking densities will also reduce the spread of infection by decreasing the level of stress on the calf.

Worm it out  
Kathryn Lawson

Parasitic Gastroenteritis (PGE) is likely to become a problem on contaminated grazing in many areas as the larval challenge increases because farmers are holding off sending lambs to market at present due to low prices and plentiful grazing conditions.

Although worming of all breeding females pre-tupping is rarely necessary, treatment should be targeted at leaner ewes, gimmers, or those sheep with dags. In fact, dosing all ewes pre-tupping may select for anthelmintic resistant strains. Also, rams are often neglected at this time and faecal worm egg count will decide whether a pr anthelmintic treatment is necessary. More investigation is needed if a high percentage of sheep are in poor condition.

For more information visit our website www.wejameson.co.uk or ring us to discuss your options.