



“TALKING HEALTH AND WELFARE” 3 December 2009

NFU Scotland, SAC and Dairy Co are working together to organise a national awareness day at the Crichton Royal Farm, Dumfries on the 3rd December 2009.

The objectives are to raise the awareness of dairy producers to animal welfare of the challenges in modern dairy production systems and the strategies to overcome these challenges. The aim is to encourage producers to work with specialists in an effort to continue to improve the welfare and productivity of cattle. This will also demonstrate that a high standard of animal welfare is a key priority for dairy farmers and not incompatible with modern production systems.

AGENDA

- 10.00 Arrive at **Brown House, Crichton Estate** to register, coffee
10.15 Introduction by Jim McLaren NFU Scotland President. Professor Geoff Simm of SAC will chair the morning session. Key note speech by Simon Hall, the recently appointed Chief Vet for Scotland.
10.35-11.45 Nigel Miller (NFU Scotland) and George Caldwell (SAC) will cover topics such as BVD and Johnes
11.45-12.00 Short walk to Crichton Royal Farm
12:00-15:00 Delegates will be split into 6 groups for tour of stations on the farm. Lunch will be provided
15:00 Tea and round up of day

Speakers for the day are:

Marco Winters (DairyCo) and Mike Coffey (SAC) will cover genetics

Marco and Mike have both substantial expertise in the field of dairy genetics and the potential benefits for some in cross breeding. The discussion will cover practical breeding solutions that are relevant to all producers, whether pedigree, commercial or cross breeding

Hugh McClymont (SAC) and Ian Ohnstad (The Dairy Group) will cover housing

The modern dairy cow needs suitable accommodation to achieve good welfare. Space to move around without undue bullying, to feed, adequate ventilation, light, and cubicles designed to allow cows to lie down and get up in comfort are all key to a happy cow.

Colin Mason (SAC) and Jo Speed (DairyCo) will cover lameness

SAC and DairyCo have a wealth of knowledge and experience in lameness strategies. There has been much effective work done on developing a lameness protocol which combines the best practices of locomotion scoring, routine foot trimming, foot bathing and recording.

Karen Lancaster and Hugh Black (DairyCo) will cover mastitis

Karen will highlight the major issues and suggest protocols to put in place to reduce infection.

Jimmy Goldie (SAC) and Donald Brown (Barony College) will cover transition feeding

Jimmy and Donald will clarify some of the issues and discuss other issues including avoiding excessive weight changes, Condition Scoring, grouping strategies, matching nutrition to genetic potential and system.

**To book your space at this event, please call 02476 478707 or email
postcard@dairyco.org.uk**