

PRESS INFORMATION from *The Dairy Group*

12th December 2011

Breeding dairy cows for longevity *by Ian Powell, Director, The Dairy Group*

The Dairy Group is a major contributor to 9 on farm meetings in January and February 2012, sponsored by Defra for dairy farmers, herdsman and those associated with dairy farming. The events are being organised by ADAS and will be presented by Marco Winters, Head of Genetics with DairyCo and by Nick Holt-Martyn and Bas van Santen, breeding specialists with The Dairy Group.

Ian Powell, Director of The Dairy Group says "Involuntary culling continues to be a major cost to the UK dairy industry, with the main cost due to mastitis, lameness and fertility, with mastitis estimated to represent 38% of the dairy farm health cost and lameness 27%. The lameness cost has been estimated at £14,700 per year for a typical 150 cow herd, equivalent to 1.5ppl and £180 million a year in the UK. Similarly, the average culling rate due to poor fertility is 18%, compared to a target rate of 10%. This higher culling rate is equivalent to 12 extra cows per year in the typical 150 cow dairy herd, which at a cost of £1330 per replacement is equivalent to £15,960 per year, equivalent to 1.6ppl and £190 million a year in the UK."

The on farm meetings have been arranged across the country to look at dairy cow breeding with a view to increasing cow longevity and survivability and also to address topics such as cross breeding and genomics. The events start at 10.15 am and finish at 12.30 pm, with the programme repeated in the afternoon, starting at 1.15 pm and finishing at 3.30 pm. To book a place e-mail karen.hobbs@thedairygroup.co.uk or phone 01823 444488 stating your name, contact number, the date of the event and am or pm.

| County | Date | Farm venue |
|---------------|------------|---|
| Cornwall | 18/01/2012 | W.E. Hosken, Trewothack Farm, Manaccan, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6HE |
| Dorset | 19/01/2012 | Tom & Alan King, Church Farm, Matinstown, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9LD |
| Cheshire | 26/01/2012 | R. Hocknell, Hollins Farm, Cranage, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, CW4 8DP |
| Devon | 06/02/2012 | Charles Withecombe, Ashridge Farm, Littleham, Bideford, Devon, EX39 5HX |
| Staffordshire | 07/02/2012 | Sarah & Chris Malpass, Lower Cowley Farm, Gnosall, Stafford, ST20 0BE |
| Lancashire | 08/02/2012 | David Holden, Winkley Hall Farm, Whalley Road, Stonyhurst, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 9PN |
| Cumbria | 09/02/2012 | Andrew Addison, Spittals Farm, Low Moor, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 1XQ |
| Shropshire | 15/02/2012 | James Brook, Weston House Farm, Priestweston, Chirbury, Shropshire, SY15 6BZ |
| Somerset | 22/02/2012 | Alan & Chris Franks, Fir Tree Farm, Blakeway, Wedmore, Somerset, BS28 4UE |

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For further information please contact:

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- **Visit www.thedairygroup.co.uk**