

LKL Newsletter

April 2024



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JUMP IN EA INSPECTIONS, 46% NON COMPLIANCE

A rise in Environment Agency inspections nationwide has left hundreds facing enforcement action, with farmers deciding to leave as a result of these draconian on-farm inspections. Several were left with a choice of either investing hundreds of thousands or selling up. A tougher approach by the Environment Agency (EA) has seen the number of farm visits rising tenfold. 4,000 inspections took place in England in 10 months, with 46% coming up with non-compliances. Enforcement action was taken on 315 occasions. The most common required actions were relating to clean and dirty water separation, silage clamps, lack of nutrient management plans, and slurry storage. Natural Resources Wales also aims to visit more than 800 farms in 2024. Why don't they take the same approach with water companies and their leaking sewers?

MILK PRICES TOWARDS 40PPL AS DEMAND FIRMS

UK wholesale milk markets improved in February with butter up 2% on the month and 24% on the year. GB household dairy purchases increased in value by 10.2%. Barbers will receive a 0.52p/litre increase to 38.72p/litre. First Milk increase by 0.75p/litre to 38.75p/litre. South Caernarfon Creameries rise 0.75p/litre to 37p/litre. Saputo hold at 38p/litre. Muller receive a 1p/litre increase to 37.5p/litre.



DEFRA LIMIT SFI NON- FOOD OPTIONS TO 25% OF A FARM

Environmental options that remove land from food production will now be limited to 25% of farm area under SFI. Grain prices fell within hours of this news.

ARLA'S STRONG RESULTS

Brand's performance in 2023 was down in the first six by 6% and in the second half up by 4.1%. The "strong year" enabled Arla to propose a 13th payment of €270m (£232m) for the year, which is equivalent to 2.07c/litre (1.8ppl). 1.3ppl was expected. Arla farmers cut emissions by 3.6% from 1.12kg to just over 1kg CO₂e/kg. The co-op is on track to deliver its 2030 reduction targets of 63%. Arla's revenue rose 2.4% to £2.6bn with Arla Protein, Starbucks and Arla Pro doing well. Arla's global boss, Peder Tuborgh, said Arla is in a robust financial position and global demand for dairy remains strong.



ARLA INVESTS £179M IN MOZZARELLA

Arla announced a £179 million investment in the mozzarella market by 2027. Arla's mozzarella business has seen double-digit growth. Plans to export mozzarella will start in 2027 and Arla will be making significant changes to its Taw Valley Creamery in Devon, to allow exports. Arla wants to become a major player within the global mozzarella market and needs to invest in state-of-the-art technology.



ARLA STAY AT 40.02PPL FOR APRIL

Arla are holding their conventional price for April but say market conditions are stable.

ARLA RAISE ORGANIC PRICE 1.34PPL TO 48.68PPL

Growing demand for organic milk is stated as the reason for the rise.

INDUSTRY NUMBERS

There were 7,500 dairy producers in October 2023, 4.5% lower than in the year before, and a 30% drop in the previous decade; one-quarter of the total 30,000 in 1995. The average dairy herd size has doubled and estimated at about 170 cows. Increases in yield enabled UK production to be static at 15 billion litres.



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NEWS

SIBLEY CRITICISES TB STRATEGY

Farm vet, Dick Sibley, said he has been removed from Defra's bovine TB partnership group for 'challenging' the current bTB programme which he said was 'unfit for purpose, and did not work'.

Mr Sibley said the current bTB approach lacked farmer engagement and education. The vaccine was not the solution to ensuring bTB free herds. The vaccine would reduce the development of clinical signs. Mr Sibley added the government was never going to eradicate bTB 'the way they are doing it now'. He said APHA was under-resourced and "You cannot test yourself out of this disease. I have never cured a cow by testing it."



CULLING WILL CONTINUE IN TARGETED AREAS

Culling will continue in targeted areas where there is high levels of infection in cattle and badgers are part of the problem, was the message from Government. Plans will be subject to a five-week consultation. Badger vaccination would be used to ensure results achieved through culling are maintained. Government said it was committed to continue to drive down disease levels. This consultation will consider local partnerships in targeted badger control areas, which will see a combination of culling, badger vaccination and on-farm biosecurity deployed.

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MILK FLUSH CONCERNS

Peak milk in the UK has been the first week of May for the past four years. The flush is dominating trading. The mood among buyers seems to be relaxed that dairy products are not going to be short. Cream is £2.10/kg, and has not changed in weeks.

CULLING REDUCED CATTLE TB BY 56%

A scientific analysis of Defra's badger control policy in England revealed a fall in bovine TB rates. Herd incidence rate of TB reduced by 56% on average. The largest drops in TB cattle rates were seen in years two and three after culling. Analysis indicates the importance of reducing transmission from badgers. They also note vaccination of badgers and finding ways to reduce their fertility, plus on-farm biosecurity measures which may also help to reduce bovine TB. Phil Latham, a former member of Defra's TB Partnership, said the evidence that culling badgers reduces TB rates in cattle is "incontrovertible".

MATTRESSES NOT ALLOWED BY DEFRA GRANTS

The RPA has excluded all cow mattresses from its latest round of the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund following a legal challenge.

Last year's grants precluded higher specification mattresses for grant aid, which Mayo Cow Comfort said distorted the market. The firm had to resort to legal action. It requested a change in the wording to include premium mattresses. The firm was prepared to seek an injunction and to commence Judicial Review proceedings. When the latest FETF round was published at the end of February, cow mattresses had been removed altogether.



TWO MEN KILLED BY STRAW BALES

Two men have been crushed by falling straw bales in Cambridgeshire. One man in his 70s and the other in his 40s, were killed at Soham in Cambridgeshire.

WALES AND ORGANIC PRODUCER RECRUITMENT

Organic Herd, formerly OMSCO, raised its April milk price to 50ppl and announced a recruitment drive. Mona Dairy on Anglesey is also recruiting. Its new dairy began cheese production in March and cost £23 million.



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LKL Services are working with Agri Power Solutions to offer you, our customers the very best of energy rates! If you want a free, no obligation quote in your own time to see what's on offer please follow the link <https://agripowersolutions.udcloudpcw.co.uk/>

Contact Number:
07425 129570

sales@agripowersolutions.co.uk

NEWS

CRYPTO RISK

Severn Trent is working with farmers to ensure clean areas for cattle to drink when out to pasture. Severn Trent Environmental Protection Scheme provides match funding for on-farm initiatives to improve water quality and benefit animal health. For farmers in cryptosporidium catchment areas, the scheme covers the full cost of watercourse fencing. Crypto is a waterbourne faecal pathogen spread by infected animals. Crypto is transmitted into water which becomes contaminated and requires additional treatment to ensure it is safe for human drinking. Restricting livestock access to watercourses is essential.

HARNESSING LIGHTNING

Technology to harness lightning to fix nitrogen could revolutionise fertiliser production. Agri-Tech Centres are working with start-up company Debye to trial a system which simulates lightning's ability to capture nitrogen in the form of nitrates when it strikes water. Lightning strikes water with energy that it breaks apart atmospheric nitrogen molecules, creating nitrogen dioxide, which is soluble in water. Technology replicates these principles using only air, water and electricity. Farmers rely on ammonia-based fertiliser, which relies on natural gas. An 18-month feasibility project is taking place at Agri-Tech's vertical farming facility in Hampshire to develop a 1kW proof-of-concept prototype. Debye's ultimate aim is to site modular containerised systems on farms.



AI TO TACKLE LAMENESS

An agritech project with the potential to transform detection of dairy cow lameness is underway. The 'hoof monitor' initiative is developing artificial intelligence thermal imaging capable of identifying lameness, allowing speedier intervention. The device detects changes in temperature in individual legs and feet, enabling treatment before the condition visibly affects the cow. Lameness costs the dairy industry £53.5 million, second only to mastitis. Fitted to a cattle race to analyse cows' legs and feet as they walk past, the prototype is being tested and developed with the 200-strong herd at Agri-EPI's Southwest Dairy Development Centre. It will be trialled on commercial farms following this.

AI AND HOOF HEALTH

Lameness impacts on cow and staff welfare. The sooner problems with foot health can be identified, the more rapidly they can be investigated. Earlier intervention is associated with lower treatment costs. Earlier identification of problem cows is good for staff welfare and morale, reducing the time spent treating affected animals. Automated mobility scoring is becoming more widely accepted by the industry. The HerdVision system is a fully automated mobility and body condition scoring technology using 3D imagery. The camera means cows can be scored every day. The system utilises existing electronic identification tags for cow ID. The camera and software identify and analyse key points and anatomical

attributes indicative of lameness. Studies involving 2,000 cows show that HerdVision is a good predictor of foot lesions in lame cows. When HerdVision identified lameness, a lesion diagnosis was found in 81% of cows. The Lameness Advantage genetic index is available on bull proofs. A key cause of lameness are stones in gateways. Stony tracks increase the risk of white line lesions and gateways are high-risk areas. One predictor for reduced lameness included distance to the first turn as cows exit the milking parlour due to the shearing forces caused by sharp turns. Maintenance of cow tracks is essential for preventing lameness. Pay particular attention



to gateways or high-risk areas, like the transition from cow tracks onto concrete yards. Use of astroturf can help by protecting the feet from penetration by stones. Look for areas where cows are making sharp turns or slipping; re-groove or cover rubber matting. When buffer feeding, more lameness is seen in the front feet when cows are pushing at feed. Preventative trimming is important. However, it is essential that cows are not left with thin soles, which will increase the risk of bruising. If you see an increase in lameness after trimming, speak to your nutritionist about supplementing with biotin. Cows fed significant amounts of concentrate will struggle to produce enough in their rumen. Feeding 20mg/cow per day has been shown to reduce the risk of white line disease by up to 50%. Look for bulls with a Lameness Advantage of at least +1.0 to improve resistance to lameness in subsequent generations.



PEOPLE CELEBRATING SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS!

Paige Whitehead, Eugen Nagy, James Farnell

WELCOME TO:

FARMERS

Bowe Dairy Farming Company Ltd, B Chandler,
J N Wigley Ltd



'We would like to wish Glyn Hanmer all the best for his retirement. Glyn has worked for LKL and A M Duguid & Son for the past 17 years, in which time he has seen and worked through significant changes on the dairy unit. He has always been a great asset to both LKL and the farm and we wish him a very happy and well-earned retirement.' Thanks from everyone at LKL.



No one is full of more false hope than a parent with a new chore chart.

My partner says I have 2 major faults. I don't listen.. and, something else.

No one warned me that being an adult was mostly just hurrying up to get somewhere you don't want to go in the first place.

Very British Problems defrosting the freezer

- Conceding that it's finally time to defrost the freezer as you enter your third year of not being able to properly close the door.
- "What's this"? Translation: It could be a lamb shank, a human arm, some Christmas cake or none of the above.
- Deciding once again not to throw out the expensive joint of beef that's been in the freezer since 2002.
- Hoping that randomly jabbing at the encrusted ice in your freezer with a large kitchen knife doesn't damage either the freezer or any of your vital organs.
- Being unsure what state of mind you were in when you decided to freeze half a scoop of mash.
- Finding out just how keen you are on freezing plastic containers full of what can only be described as "brown liquid."
- Discovering, after six hours' chiselling, that the only items in your freezer are an individual Yorkshire pudding and seven peas.

Teacher: If you are stuck on a problem ask your partner.

Me and my partner:



Cashier: 'Delivery will be an extra £5'.

Dads:





ANNUAL ROLLING RESULTS All breeds All systems Herds Ranked by: Margin Over Purchased Feed per Cow

Latest Recording		Average										Cwrt									
		301	277	188	298	246	252	302	526	181	176	439	156	283	539	437	332	535	221	177	252
MILK PRODUCTION																					
Yield (ltrs/cow)	9312	13410	10147	9397	13566	10522	11417	11752	9088	10127	8181	8229	9778	9308	10575	8334	8458	6262	8631	6607	6367
Yield from all forage (ltrs/cow)	3234	1969	3684	3762	4352	3351	4316	2562	4934	3626	3508	3293	2124	2841	2434	2973	3827	3195	3584	2790	2618
% of total yield from forage	36%	15%	36%	40%	32%	32%	38%	22%	54%	36%	43%	40%	22%	31%	23%	36%	45%	51%	42%	42%	41%
Butterfat (%)	4.23	3.93	4.52	4.03	4.04	4.15	4.06	3.77	4.42	4.24	4.31	4.49	4.23	4.05	4.08	4.54	4.45	4.21	4.00	4.56	4.51
Protein (%)	3.35	3.23	3.45	3.32	3.22	3.36	3.15	3.33	3.40	3.44	3.43	3.56	3.31	3.26	3.31	3.45	3.40	3.32	3.17	3.53	3.55
Hygiene	22	8	20	13	16	22	19	27	10	20	18	24	29	35	32	38	20	13	29	28	26
Cell Count	141	80	127	127	116	135	143	164	93	175	140	120	164	185	120	177	111	210	197	153	105
Bactoscan / Cell Count Index	60	86	65	72	71	61	63	50	82	55	65	62	48	38	54	37	68	55	42	52	63
Milk Price (pence)	41.87	45.23	44.00	45.80	36.78	42.21	40.23	41.43	42.95	41.99	47.02	43.74	41.68	41.39	37.84	41.98	39.39	49.97	36.04	40.87	39.63
FEED																					
Concentrate use per cow (kg)	2754	4145	2721	2836	4260	3428	3117	4002	2111	2715	2376	2602	3590	2776	2620	2940	2421	1592	2650	2025	1703
Concentrate use (kg/ltr)	0.29	0.31	0.27	0.30	0.31	0.33	0.27	0.34	0.23	0.27	0.29	0.32	0.37	0.30	0.25	0.35	0.29	0.25	0.31	0.31	0.27
Concentrate price per tonne (£)	331	310	344	301	306	297	341	366	349	351	326	280	319	313	293	327	361	481	300	307	316
Other purch feed cost per cow (£)	158	728	197	127	377	127	194	156	0	202	34	0	140	211	496	0	6	10	80	4	112
All purchased feed cost (p/ltr)	11.14	15.02	11.17	10.42	12.38	10.89	11.01	13.79	8.11	11.39	9.89	8.85	13.14	11.60	11.95	11.54	10.41	12.40	10.16	9.47	10.22
MARGINS																					
MOPF per cow (£)	2828	4051	3331	3324	3311	3294	3291	3248	3166	3099	3029	2871	2791	2770	2738	2530	2439	2353	2234	2075	1871
MOPF per Litre (p)	30.74	30.21	32.83	35.38	24.40	31.32	29.22	27.64	34.84	30.60	37.13	34.89	28.55	29.80	25.89	30.43	28.98	37.57	25.88	31.40	29.42
FORAGE																					
Stocking rate (cows/ha)	2.35	2.07	2.00		1.64		1.68				2.33		4.35	1.73	3.99	2.28	2.02			2.52	
Milk from forage (ltrs/ha)	6897	4069	7362		7135		7252		8165		9236		9709	4903	9709	6764	7728			7027	
MOPF per hectare (£)	6605	8372	6656		5428		5530		7052		12139		10920	4781	10920	5756	4925			5225	

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LKL Services Herds

Holstein/Friesian, Conventional Herds (matched herds)		Year Ending February 2023	Year Ending February 2024	Change	% Diff
Cows in herd		297	306	9	3%
Cow calvings		217	221	4	2%
Heifer calvings		92	110	18	20%
Stocking rate	cows/ha	2.43	2.44	0.01	0%
MILK PRODUCTION					
Milk Production	litres	2,819,124	2,927,502	108,378	4%
Yield per cow	litres	9,492	9,567	75	1%
Yield from all forage per cow	litres	2,973	3,175	202	7%
% of total yield from forage		31%	33%	2%	6%
Butterfat	%	4.19	4.18	-0.01	0%
Protein	%	3.35	3.33	-0.02	-1%
Bactoscan		23	24	1	4%
Cellcount		145	147	2	1%
Milk Price	pence	45.20	40.21	-4.99	-11%
Total milk value per cow	£	4,290	3,847	-443	-10%
FEED					
Total concentrate use	tonnes	866	880	14	2%
Concentrate use per cow	kg	2,917	2,877	-40	-1%
Concentrate use per litre	kg	0.31	0.30	-0.01	-3%
Concentrate price per tonne	£	334	323	-11	-3%
Other purchased feed cost per cow	£	155	162	7	5%
All purchased feed cost per cow	£	1129	1091	-38	-3%
All purchased feed cost per litre	pence	11.89	11.40	-0.49	-4%
All P.Feed @ 86% DM equivalent per cow	kg	3,287	3,278	-9	0%
MARGINS					
MOPF per herd	£	938,817	843,336	-95,481	-10%
MOPF per cow	£	3,161	2,756	-405	-13%
MOPF per litre	pence	33.30	28.81	-4.49	-13%

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P0001 20/07/2024

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LKL League Table — February 2024 milk production, inclusion for herds with an MOPF per cow (£) over 1,871.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS MONTH'S WINNERS:



**Faye Woolhead @
Hook Farm Partnership**

(Wins £20 voucher)

LKL Safety Note

Working Safely around Farm machinery

Every year a number of persons are killed or seriously injured while attempting to clear blockages or carry out maintenance on farm machinery.

HSE list 'Coming into contact with machinery during operation or maintenance' in its *top 5 causes of death or serious injury* in its accident statistics for 2023 – just after 'Being stuck by a moving vehicle'. In 2021, six people were killed in the agricultural industry whilst attempting to clear blockages or work on machinery whilst it was still operating.

The legislation covering work equipment requires dangerous moving parts to be provided with guards and other devices to prevent people coming into contact with it. A lot of machinery has dangerous parts such as; drive belts, pulleys, augers and other moving components where hazards such as crushing, entanglement, amputation are present and have to be properly guarded.



This guarding needs to be inspected and maintained regularly e.g. PTO guards and covers - and if they are broken or missing there is a risk of entanglement if some clothing or body part comes into contact with it.

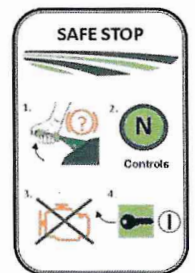
Before carrying out any maintenance or freeing a blockage on machinery – Always ask the question – **Am I competent to do this safely and have sufficient knowledge and training?**

If you are unsure then contact the manufacturer/supplier or obtain the services of a trained competent person.

Below are some Safety reminders

Stop the Machinery Safely – its extremely dangerous to work on a machine under power.

- Machinery and work equipment often has moving parts that may have electrical /hydraulic control and move or start suddenly unless properly isolated. Failure to properly isolate a machine before doing maintenance work is a common cause of accident.
- For vehicles/mobile equipment - **apply the handbrake and ensure controls are in safe position** e.g. neutral and pressure released from hydraulic system. Remember '**Safe Stop procedure**'. Chock the wheels if necessary to prevent any movement.
- Stop the engine or for work equipment ensure that the **power supply is stopped and turned off**
- Remove the key and lock the door – **Lock off system** – prevents anybody inadvertently starting the machine if you are working on it.



Clearing Blockages - Have you read and understood the operator's manual – Are you suitably trained on how to safely clear a blockage from the machine?

- If you are not competent to remove the blockage - then **STOP** and seek competent assistance.
- **Never use your hands to clear a blockage** – always use a tool.
- Make sure you **plan the job first** and have the correct tools and equipment.
- Make sure there are **no parts that could suddenly move or operate**. Remember for hydraulic parts – loss of power can cause them to rotate or move freely, so secure anything as necessary.
- Remember hydraulic parts have oil under pressure and therefore can suddenly move, even without a power supply.
- Ensure all guards are replaced securely and correctly in place before you turn power back, on and carry out a test run.
- Make sure that you communicate well with other members of staff so they all know the plan.
- Before operating make sure that all persons are well away from the machine and can be seen by the operator. Understand risks of potential projectiles or sudden movement.

LKL Safety Note

Keep your machinery and work equipment well maintained.



By ensuring that machinery and work equipment receives regularly servicing and maintenance by the dealership/supplier and that moving parts are lubricated, will assist in preventing breakdown and issues with blockages. It will also ensure you are compliant with the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regs (PUWER)

Follow a safe system of work and complete daily checks before machinery use and train staff:

- **Ensure that pre use checks are in place** before you use a piece of equipment to include testing the correct operation of any emergency stop buttons before use.
- **Check that all guards are in place**, in good condition and fitted and adjusted correctly to prevent access to moving parts. Check all pins and brackets are in place.
- **Check that all hydraulic hoses are in good condition** and there are no leaks.
- Ensure the manufacturers yellow warning signs are in place that can alert operators to in running nips or shearing hazards
- Ensure housekeeping around the work equipment is of good standard and there are no trip or slip hazards and there is adequate lighting
- Ensure that staff are wearing the right PPE and are aware of hazards and don't have loose sleeves or clothing or long hair that risks being entangled.
- Ensure all staff understand all the controls and what they do
- For ride on machinery; - check brakes, mirrors, lights, warning beacons etc.
- For Lifting equipment, telehandlers, lifting arms etc. – Ensure regular LOLER tests
- Ensure all staff understand the hazards of the machinery and only trained and authorised staff should operate the machine and keep the manufacturers handbook available. **Operate safe systems of work for general use and maintenance operations.**



NB: - use the NFU vehicle health check form to assist with vehicle checks

<https://www.nfuonline.com/media/glpaoqt0/vehicle-health-check.pdf>

Don't forget to consider Safe working at Height



Some work equipment and machinery can be quite tall e.g. such as the beet chopper - and so access to carry out machinery maintenance or clear a blockage also needs to consider safe work at height .

Some farm work equipment, trailers etc. come with pre fitted access ladders, but not many.

Remember all work at height needs to be safely planned and the most appropriate work equipment for the job selected.

The use of telehandler or tractor front loader buckets **is not a safe means of lifting people** to access tall work equipment, machinery or roofs etc. to carry out maintenance, repairs or clear blockages. The machine can inadvertently move or the bucket accidentally be tipped and a person thrown from the bucket from height onto the floor below, which can lead to serious injury or a fatality or strike something overhead



A recent incident on a LKL farm using a telehandler bucket to lift a person led to the farmer sustaining serious injuries including fractured ribs and skull.



Always select the right work equipment and if using a telehandler, a personal safety access cage must be used which is fully integrated to the machine with a lock of facility on the tilt control to prevent accidental tilting and ensure all operators are suitably trained. A working platform with suitable outriggers is another option.

For more info see <https://www.nfuonline.com/nfu-online/farm-safety-leaflets-2019/safety-focus-on-working-from-height/>

By Michelle Jeal, LKL Health & Safety Advisor