

# LKL Newsletter February 2024



Editor: George Gordon Layout: Amanda Hargrave

## Mateusz Synenko RIP

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we inform you of the death of our colleague and friend, Mateusz Synenko, who passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Mateusz died unexpectedly following a tragic accident. Mateusz, 30, and his two brothers have been working for LKL for the past 6 years. They worked hard, played hard and at all times carried out their duties with pride and professionalism. We will all miss his character and commitment around the farm and send Radek, Kamil and all his family our sincerest and heartfelt condolences.

## **MILK PRICES**

Arla 3ppl jump on January 1 to 39.18ppl and 46.50ppl for organic now leads the commodity market. Muller will hold at 36.35ppl, Saputo hold at 36.5ppl. Barber's announced a 1.03ppl rise to 38.20ppl. Industry consultants indicated milk prices are likely to be at about 37-38p/litre for the next few months, before rising to 40-41p/litre by June. Milk prices started 2024 with improved demand with a buoyant Global Dairy Trade on 16 January, the index rising by 2.3%.



Come and see **LKL** at Dairy-Tech on Wednesday 7 February at Stoneleigh.

## **ARLA HOLD TIGHT FOR 1 FEBRUARY MILK PRICE**

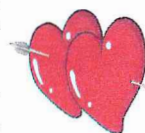
Following the 3ppl rise on 1 January, Arla are holding all prices from 1 February.

## **HERD HEALTH - IMPROVING TRENDS**

Based on data from 500 NMR-recorded Holstein Friesian herds, 70% of herds had a SCC below 200,000 in 2023, an improvement from 44% in 2010. 52% of all cows completed their lactations without recording a single high SCC above 200,000 cells. The figure in 2010 was 35% of cows. Mastitis incidence averaged 22 cases per 100 cows per year, a reduction of 14 cases per 100 cows per year since 2016. Since 2010, mean age at first calving had decreased by 89 days to 304 days (2.2 years). Median calving interval is 30 days shorter than in 2010 at 394 days. Conception rates increased to 39%. During the past 14 years, they have increased by 7%. Variation remains high between herds, from 32% in the bottom quartile of more than 45% in the best quartile. Milk yields remained stable, averaging 8,737kg in 2023, up by more than 1,000kg on 2010 data. Significant improvements have been in milk and fat protein. Milk fat has increased from 3.35% in 2010 to 4.26% in 2023. Protein has risen from 3.33% since 2022, up from 3.27% in 2010. The NMR 500-Herd report was produced by the University of Reading and can be found on NMR's website [www.nmr.co.uk](http://www.nmr.co.uk)

## **14TH FEBRUARY (A polite reminder to busy dairy people)**

Whilst a busy time at the end of a long winter please make time for Valentines day. Life on a dairy farm is very demanding and we all depend on the love, patience and support of our partners. Please get the appropriate treat/acknowledgement to loved ones on the 14th!



## **SIR MICHAEL EAVIS**

**LKL** client and Glastonbury Festival founder Michael Eavis was awarded a Knighthood in the New Year Honours List. Mr Eavis founded Glastonbury festival in 1970; he still runs a 500-head dairy herd, and is a finalist in the 2023 NMR/RABDF Gold Cup to be announced at Dairy-Tech.



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### NEWS

#### Get your free quote for electricity!

**LKL Services Ltd** 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.udcloudp.co.uk/>

Contact Number:  
07425 129570

[sales@agripowersolutions.co.uk](mailto:sales@agripowersolutions.co.uk)

#### FEED PRICES EASE

With reasonable harvests across the Northern Hemisphere, crop supplies are good. Rains in South America eroded fears that dry conditions would impact yields. Wheat markets have a large old crop and static demand.



Together with lower feed compounder demand, particularly from the smaller pig sector, there could be a 3m tonne carryover into July 2024. Mild autumn weather in 2023 led to a fall in feed manufacturing due to high levels of forage availability.

#### STRAW UP £20/T

Barley and wheat straw prices are up, paying around £20/t more than last year. Hay prices have also been gradually increasing.

#### SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS SQUEEZE PRICE RISES

Several milk processors will increase in February. A tighter supply of milk has been helping to support markets with deliveries down by about 2-3% compared with 2023. Demand has been firmer. Actual milk price equivalent is up marginally to 37.96p/litre, milk for cheese value equivalent up 4% to 38.07p/litre. GDT on 2 January increased by 1.2%, followed by a rise of 2.3% on 16th January.



- First Milk to increase by 1p to 37p/litre
- Barber's increase by 1p to 38.2/litre
- Wyke Farms rise 1p to 38.29p

#### ALDI AND LIDL FLYING

Aldi and Lidl announced record-breaking Christmas trade. Sales topped £1.5 billion for the first time at Aldi. Sales were up 8% on earlier year levels, while Lidl reported growth of 12%. Aldi now have 1,000 UK stores with Lidl 960.



#### M&S NET ZERO LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Marks and Spencer will collaborate with farmers, suppliers and industry to deliver net zero livestock production. 'Farm of the Future' is a seven-year initiative which will involve suppliers, Harper Adams and seven M&S Select Farms. Knowledge gained will be shared across all M&S Select Farms.

#### VEGAN COSTS 28% MORE PER CALORIE

An 18-month study commissioned by Kite and AB Dairy compared two baskets of vegan food alongside conventional products. Meat and dairy provide 40% more calories per pound than vegan foods and cost 30% less. The study showed consumers buying the vegan foods paid around 42p/kcalorie, compared to 30p for those buying conventional. The cost per calorie was 28% lower than that for the vegan basket. On a cost-per-nutrients delivered, per amount of carbon emitted, dairy and meat will outperform many other products.

#### JOHN DEERE BACK TO NO 1 MARKET SHARE

Figures from UK tractor registrations revealed John Deere as the top manufacturer, with 3,960 machines in 2022, holding 30.4% of the market. In second place was CNH with 3,390 machines (26%) registered, split across its brands of New Holland (2,122 units) and Case IH (1,268 units). John Deere held the title for 16 years until 2020. Overall registrations for 2022 totalled 13,017 machines. JCB supplied 274 units (2.1%) and Kubota 965 machines (7.3%). Fendt sustained 6.5%. The data has been released after a 12-month delay due to competition law restrictions.



#### HOLSTEIN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The award recognises individuals who have dedicated at least 20 years of service to the industry. This year, the quality of applications meant Trustees were unable to just pick one winner. It honoured Mary Mead, Aubrey Greenhalgh and Dennis Smith.







## NEWS

Please see attached brochure for the KANDI MoonRaker E500 UTV. For more information call 01980 611555 and quote 'LKL'.

### PLAN SPRING GRAZING

Turning cows out early helps to stimulate grass growth resulting in up to an extra 1.5 tonnes of dry matter per hectare. Earlier turnout can also help to create a grass wedge of different heights. Check fencing, tracks and water troughs. Borehole water should be tested for nutrients. Test slurry for quality and analyse nitrogen availability. Potential of grazing paddocks needs to be maintained via a regular reseeding programme to ensure paddocks are yielding the maximum dry matter every year.



### FALL IN DAIRY ANTIMICROBIALS

Antimicrobials use on UK dairy farms has fallen to 13.7mg/kg population corrected unit (PCU), according to Kingshay. Use in 2019 was 17.7mg/kg PCU. UK sales of antibiotics for food-producing animals has fallen 59% since 2014. 25% of users with the highest rates had made the least progress. To push that lower in future will potentially be harder and require changes to buildings, not just changes in behaviour, to observe best practice.



### MITIGATE BIRD DAMAGE

Maize growers need to plan despite the extension to the date when seed treatments Redigo M, Force and Korit can be used to protect maize seed until July 1 2027. Such options may not be around forever. Viable and more sustainable options when protecting seed; drilling slightly later and placing seed deeper will ensure the worst of the problems are avoided. Drilling depths of 2cm, 7cm and 10cm have been tested. Untreated seed drilled at 2cm depth resulted in plants being taken by birds. The 10cm depth trial produced positive results with evidence plants can resist bird damage.



### MILK FEVER

According to DHHPS in Edinburgh, milk fever UK incidence is at 5%. Data from DHHPS shows 50% of pre-calving second and third calvers have low blood calcium levels. Dairy farmers are only preventing clinical cases and downer cows. Calcium binders work in a similar way to a calcium-restricted diet, bound cations of calcium, magnesium and phosphate reducing calcium absorption. Research on straw processing showed chop length was crucial for dry matter (DM) intakes. Cows ate less when long straw (10cm) was fed. Short-chop straw (2.5cm) maintained consistent intakes to calving. 30-40% of cows in the UK struggle in early lactation with excessive negative energy and are at risk of displaced abomasum and ketosis. Risk factors include insufficient trough space and not overfeeding metabolizable energy in dry cows. Minimise social stress and movement in the last 10 days of pregnancy.

### BLUETONGUE IS BACK

The Animal and Plant Health Agency has registered 55 cases of bluetongue across eastern counties, on 32 farms. As the weather gets warmer, the area the disease is present in may increase due to activity of the midge. When the temperature exceeds 4degC, development of the midge can take place. Replication requires 12degC and produces an explosion of cases going into spring and summer. Look out for performance reductions; sheep show more obvious clinical signs than cattle. Abortions, foetal deformities and stillbirths are common signs in livestock with red skin as a result of blood collecting beneath the surface, lethargy and fever. The midge is hard to detect as it is 15 times smaller than a horse fly. While impossible to eliminate populations of the biting midge, tackling midge breeding grounds and use of approved pour-on insecticides could help. Midges that carry the bluetongue virus usually breed on animal dung and moist soils. Draining damp areas will help dry up breeding areas. Targeted use of synthetic pyrethroids in and around any housing could be effective. The 'blue tongue' is rarely seen, but does refer to swelling of the tongue.







### PEOPLE CELEBRATING SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS!

Chris Mann, Mariusz Serdynski, Alexandra Hayes, Luke Amos

### WELCOME TO:

**FARMERS** H.S Petch & Sons Limited



Julie and George Gordon are thrilled to announce the engagement of their eldest son Ivor Gordon (28) and Laura Ablitt (28), on 21 January 2024. With love and best wishes for the future!



**(GOD CREATING DUCKS)**  
Waterproof that chicken and give it a kazoo.

Once I became a parent I finally understood the scene where Yoda gets so tired of answering Luke's questions he just dies



You almost made it in except for your language while loading and unloading cattle.



ARE YOU a RACCOON?

- Dark circles under eyes
- Eats junk
- Small and chubby
- Stays up all night
- Cute but will fight



I'm at my most tired at 9.30pm on the sofa and my most awake 10pm in bed.

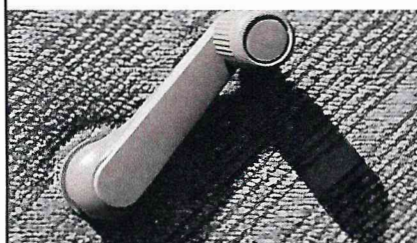
Me when someone doesn't believe me and they Google it and see I'm right



Me telling my mum a secret.  
My mum the next day.



Today's kids will never know the strength you needed to get the car window down



When your milk has a date on Valentines Day and you don't.



**"It didn't quite go according to plan".**

**Translation: It completely failed in every conceivable way.**

Can you do me a favour and put that in an email?

Translation: I haven't been listening and I want to escape.





ANNUAL ROLLING RESULTS										All breeds All systems Herds										Ranked by:				Yield per Cow									
Latest Recording		Average										Cows in herd		MILK PRODUCTION																			
		IVE1	WOO1	HEA1	PIC1	SK14	BOW3	ROT1	ROT1	LOT2	CHE1			JEA1	BUT1	BRA2	SEA1	STA2	WAL2	MER3	SAL1	CWrt											
		Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Nov 23	Nov 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Nov 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Dec 23	Dec 23													
		246	277	525	302	435	250	176	190	280	536	181	178	535	155	440	217	216	233	394													
		304																															
		9423	13559	13410	11803	11320	10607	10554	9998	9920	9876	9214	9073	8580	8543	8474	8112	7278	6502	6352	5864												
Yield (ltrs/cow)		3170	4418	1969	2446	4230	2630	3320	3440	4078	2382	2873	4829	3005	3795	3426	3631	1301	3077	2959	2417												
% of total yield from forage		35%	33%	15%	21%	37%	25%	31%	34%	41%	24%	31%	53%	35%	44%	40%	45%	18%	47%	47%	41%												
Butterfat (%)		4.21	4.05	3.93	3.77	4.06	4.10	4.06	4.23	4.55	4.24	4.06	4.40	3.99	4.40	4.50	4.29	3.86	4.21	4.76	4.50												
Protein (%)		3.36	3.22	3.23	3.35	3.15	3.32	3.36	3.44	3.45	3.33	3.28	3.40	3.17	3.40	3.54	3.41	3.24	3.32	3.64	3.54												
Hygiene		22	15	8	27	18	32	23	20	19	30	36	9	29	20	21	17	19	13	34	26												
Cell Count		144	122	80	169	138	122	132	173	128	169	193	87	195	112	117	141	185	205	146	126												
Bactoscan / Cell Count Index		59	70	86	49	65	54	60	56	65	47	35	84	42	68	65	64	54	56	47	59												
Milk Price (pence)		43.55	37.41	45.23	42.77	42.79	39.99	43.51	42.75	44.77	43.61	42.42	44.35	38.15	41.63	45.21	48.57	48.39	51.38	45.10	39.49												
FEED																																	
Concentrate use per cow (kg)		2793	4242	4145	4094	3101	2564	3516	2744	2246	3518	2717	2142	2622	2467	2665	2277	2847	1774	1839	1545												
Concentrate use (kg/ltr)		0.30	0.31	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.24	0.33	0.27	0.23	0.36	0.29	0.24	0.31	0.29	0.31	0.28	0.39	0.27	0.29	0.26												
Concentrate price per tonne (£)		351	305	310	361	347	302	301	369	363	328	322	361	305	367	300	344	537	504	321	320												
Other purch feed cost per cow (£)		171	402	728	155	195	506	104	205	323	143	224	0	84	8	0	34	0	12	22	107												
All purchased feed cost (p/ltr)		12.01	12.52	15.02	13.83	11.23	12.06	11.00	12.16	11.48	13.12	11.93	8.53	10.29	10.70	9.43	10.08	21.01	13.96	9.63	10.26												
MARGINS																																	
MOPF per cow (£)		2935	3375	4051	3416	3528	2963	3430	3058	3302	3012	2809	3250	2390	2642	3032	3115	1993	2433	2253	1713												
MOPF per Litre (p)		31.54	24.89	30.21	28.94	31.56	27.93	32.51	30.59	33.29	30.50	30.49	35.82	27.85	30.93	35.78	38.49	27.38	37.42	35.47	29.23												
FORAGE																																	
Stocking rate (cows/ha)		2.37	1.64	2.07		1.74	3.99			2.02	4.31	1.71			2.02		2.35	1.92		2.34													
Milk from forage (ltrs/ha)		7110	7255	4069		7360	10482			8224	10262	4898			7680		8551	2496		6934													
MOPF per hectare (£)		7097	5543	8372		6138	11807			6661	12978	4790			5347		7335	3824		5279													

Kingshay can accept no responsibility for the information supplied to it. Every care will be taken by Kingshay to produce an accurate report but it does not accept any liability for any loss (whether direct or consequential) arising from any defect in the report.



LKL Services Herds					
Holstein/Friesian, Conventional Herds (matched herds)		Year Ending December 2022	Year Ending December 2023	Change	% Diff
Cows in herd		312	321	9	3%
Cow calvings		230	232	2	1%
Heifer calvings		100	110	10	10%
Stocking rate	cows/ha	2.56	2.54	-0.02	-1%
<b>MILK PRODUCTION</b>					
Milk Production	litres	3,071,016	3,180,147	109,131	4%
Yield per cow	litres	9,843	9,907	64	1%
Yield from all forage per cow	litres	3,085	3,244	159	5%
% of total yield from forage		31%	33%	1%	4%
Butterfat	%	4.17	4.18	0.01	0%
Protein	%	3.33	3.35	0.02	1%
Bactoscan		22	25	3	14%
Cellcount		144	149	5	3%
Milk Price	pence	42.79	42.11	-0.68	-2%
Total milk value per cow	£	4,212	4,172	-40	-1%
<b>FEED</b>					
Total concentrate use	tonnes	957	966	9	1%
Concentrate use per cow	kg	3,066	3,008	-58	-2%
Concentrate use per litre	kg	0.31	0.30	-0.01	-3%
Concentrate price per tonne	£	318	327	9	3%
Other purchased feed cost per cow	£	139	170	31	22%
All purchased feed cost per cow	£	1114	1154	40	4%
All purchased feed cost per litre	pence	11.32	11.65	0.33	3%
All P.Feed @ 86% DM equivalent per cow	kg	3,404	3,395	-9	0%
<b>MARGINS</b>					
MOPF per herd	£	966,576	968,778	2,202	0%
MOPF per cow	£	3,098	3,018	-80	-3%
MOPF per litre	pence	31.47	30.46	-1.01	-3%

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**LKL** League Table — December 2023 milk production, inclusion for herds with a Yield (ltrs/cow) over 5,864:-

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS MONTH'S WINNERS:**



**Ricardo Mariano, Craig Kerswell and Simon Read @ Messrs W & P Ives**

(Wins £10/£5 voucher)



## LKL Safety Note



### Mental Health Wellness - Mind your Head Looking after your Physical and Mental wellbeing



**The Farm Safety Foundation** is the charity leading the campaign to raise awareness of protecting the physical and mental wellbeing of those living and working in the farming sector. **February is the month that The Farm Safety Foundation will launch its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mind your Head campaign**, a campaign that was started in 2018 to raise awareness of farmer mental health.

**FSF says that;** whilst UK farmers are renowned for the attention they give to their livestock, crops and machinery, it appears they do not have such a good track record when it comes to taking care of themselves and their own wellbeing.

The industry faces many stress factors, which are placing increasing pressure on workers and putting them at greater risk of mental ill health. These include extended amounts of time working in isolation, a blurring between work and home life, and financial uncertainty. According to their research, 94% of UK farmers under age 40 rank poor mental health as the biggest hidden problem facing farmers today.

#### **Looking after your mental health – helps you stay safe on the Farm**

We all know that safe practice in agriculture is important and can impact our physical wellbeing, but can mental health impact our ability to stay safe on farm?

Increasing pressures on our mental health can increase work-related stress. If work-related stress increases, it is likely to have a negative impact on how we are able to work as external pressures can distract us from the tasks at hand. So poor mental health can be a risk factor to increase farming accidents as it can impact your judgment, increase risk taking and have a direct impact on ability to farm safely.

**Farm Safety Foundation** has done a lot of research over the last couple of years and interviewed farmers and got them to complete a survey including mental wellbeing questions. They found that 90% of young farmers agreed that farm safety and mental health **are** directly linked. In the study, farmers with lower well-being scores were **less likely** to take steps to stay safe on the farm (e.g., wear Personal Protective Equipment PPE, carry out risk assessments). They were also more likely to admit to taking risks, **less likely** to think about the consequences and less likely to take personal responsibility for their safety.

#### **Good mental health increases safety and efficiency on farm**

It's therefore important to address the root causes and focus on your wellbeing. Mental health needs to be as much of a priority as our physical health. **By taking care of your mental health, your safety on farm, and therefore much of your physical health, is likely to improve.**



As this improves, it is likely that your efficiency on farm will improve as well, as we are less distracted by external pressures and more able to focus on the tasks at hand.

#### **Mental health issues are a normal part of life.**

In any one year approximately one in four of us experience at least one mental health issue. Mental health, just like our physical health, can vary from day to day. Issues can appear as a result of experiences in both our personal and working lives – or they can just happen.

Mental health issues do not discriminate; they can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender, geography, income, social status, sexual orientation or other aspect of cultural identity.

**It is important to create a culture in farming that promotes positive mental health**, prevents people from experiencing mental ill health and helps them better manage mental health problems.



## LKL Safety Note

### Normalise the issue and start talking and provide support

One of the key ways to do this is to ensure everyone can talk about mental health. Make the effort to connect with colleagues and ensure the Team works together to look out for each other's physical and mental wellbeing. Put aside time each day to check in with each other. Learn how to provide support, including knowing how to spot the warning signs and being confident to signpost colleagues to the support available.



**Mr and Mrs Eadon lost their farmer son Len, to suicide in 2022. In 2023 they launched 'Len's Five a Day challenge' for farmers to look after themselves and others on the farm and start talking about mental health.** It requires you to be honest about daily challenges, listen to each other and look after yourself as well as you care for others.

### THE FIVE A DAY CHALLENGE KEEP YOURSELF SAFE

- 1 Be honest with yourself and those around you
- 2 Talk openly about daily challenges & LISTEN
- 3 Care for yourself as well as you care for others
- 4 Contact that person you've been saying you should
- 5 Plan for the unexpected - make the right choices

In Loving Memory of  
Leonard James Eadon 14/02/1999 - 01/01/2022

From FCF :- THE STEPS TO WELLNESS...  
CONNECT, BE ACTIVE, TAKE NOTICE, KEEP  
LEARNING AND GIVING

AT LKL WE WOULD LOVE TO ENCOURAGE  
YOU MAKE A COMMITMENT TO YOUR  
HEALTH AND SAFETY THIS MONTH BY  
TAKING STEPS TO LOOK AFTER YOUR  
MENTAL WELLNESS

### For resources to read yourself and share with your team: -

**Little Book of Minding your Head :-** The Farm Safety Foundation's 'Little Book Of Minding Your Head' is a great resource to find out more about **mental wellbeing**, with information and advice on how you can look after yourself and take care of others. It also lists many of the fantastic organisations across the UK who are offering emotional support and practical help. It includes a list of resources and helplines.

<https://www.yellowwellies.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/The-Little-Book-of-Minding-Your-Head.pdf>



## WORKING MINDS

### MAKE IT ROUTINE



The **Working Minds campaign** brings together a range of tools and support to help businesses and workers understand the best ways to prevent work related stress and encourage good mental health.

Register for the free online learning for employers that brings the **Working Minds campaign** principles to life.

It's based on the principles of risk assessment, with a focus on five steps:

**Reach out > Recognise > Respond > Reflect > Make it Routine.**

<https://workingminds.focusgames.com>

### For area specific helpline and resources – see this link: -

<https://www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/find-wellbeing-support-in-your-area/>  
<https://www.borderchaplain.org/lib/F421453.pdf>

**The NYFYCF – Have wellbeing and mental health resources** in their 'training for club nights' see: <https://www.nfyfc.org.uk/the-curve-ready-made-club-nights>



## Newsletter 2024, Q1

Feb 2024

### Ewe Nutrition in Pregnancy

Undoubtably the nutrition of the pregnant ewe can have a major impact on ewe and lamb health, and thus future productivity in the flock for the coming year. **With 75% of lamb growth occurring in the last 6 weeks of pregnancy**, getting it right at this stage is critical. Problems can result in twin-lamb disease, reduced lamb birthweight, lack of colostrum quantity and/or quality, and high levels of perinatal mortality. Perinatal mortality is a major cause of lost productivity in UK flocks, and ranges from 10-25%. 5% or less is achievable on many farms.

Ultrasound diagnosis of pregnancy and foetal number (scanning) is typically performed at day 60-90 of pregnancy, and allows identification of barren ewes, early detection of poor reproductive performance and the tailoring of nutritional management of ewes according to foetal number being carried.



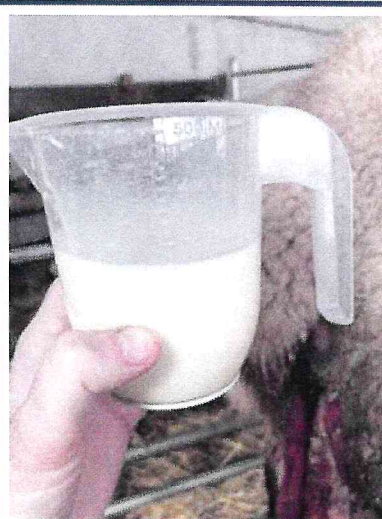
The energy requirements for an 80kg ewe carrying a single lamb at 18 weeks of pregnancy are approximately 13.9MJ. Compare this to an 80kg ewe carrying triplets at the same stage of

pregnancy, needing approximately 18.5MJ: a considerable difference of nearly 5MJ! Dietary protein requirements of the triplet-carrying ewe are also significantly greater than the single carrying ewe in the later stages of gestation.

Feeding ewes according to the number of lambs being carried is a solid start. Ensuring that the ration and/or its management is going to plan is the next step, and this can be done by carrying out a DHHPS Pre-Lambing Blood Test.

**Blood sampling sheep in late pregnancy can give you a rapid, cost effective and objective measure of nutritional management, before it is too late.**

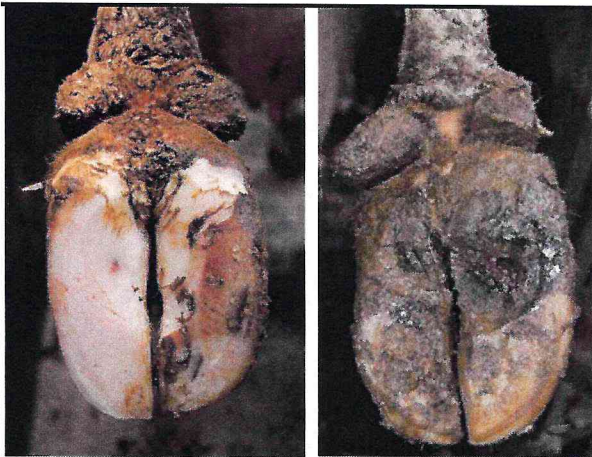
With the blood test results and written report back within the week, any necessary adjustments can then be made to the diet or its management, to meet or more precisely match the pregnant ewe's requirements.



Blood testing is one way to check ewe ERDP requirements are being met. A shortage of ERDP can result in poor colostrum quality.

The DHHPS standard Pre-Lambing sheep test costs £200 for up to 20 sheep. At least 5 ewes should be sampled from each group. Our standard test includes analysis for BOHB, Urea-N, albumin, magnesium and copper. For more information or to access our sheep testing forms, please call the DHHPS office, or look at our website.





## Protecting against solar ulcers

It has long been established that the transition period represents a period of significant risk for claw horn disease in dairy cows. The softening of the ligaments in the run up to calving, combined with negative energy balance in early lactation, leave cows vulnerable to foot lesions, such as solar bruising and ulcers.

Whilst there is still some debate as to the optimal frequency of routine foot trimming, **inspecting feet regularly to ensure that toe length and foot balance are optimal is an essential part of any lameness prevention programme.** That said, despite implementation of regular routine foot trimming on many farms, lameness continues to be the leading welfare problem affecting dairy cows worldwide.

A recent study undertaken by the University of Liverpool sought to understand how certain cow factors influence the development of claw horn disease in herds that routinely foot trim all cows twice a year at dry off and 60 days calved (<https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2023-23965>).

In this study, cows across four farms were examined during the dry period, at calving and during early lactation. The first key finding was that **foot angle and heel depth were not predictive of the development of claw horn disease.** This is perhaps not surprising, given that routine trimming aims to ensure that foot balance is maintained for all cows in the herd, hence minimising the impact of foot angle and heel depth on disease risk in cows where the feet are already "well maintained".

Interestingly, the risk of a sole lesion in early lactation was strongly related to cow body condition, digital cushion thickness and sole horn thickness at the time of calving. **Thin cows (under body condition score 2.5 on a scale of 1-5), cows with a thinner digital cushion and cows with a thinner sole at calving,** were at significantly increased risk of developing solar bruising or a solar ulcer in early lactation. Given the current debate as to the optimal depth of the sole, erring on the side of caution and preserving sole horn thickness when routinely trimming feet would seem prudent at this stage. **Do not forget the risks of over trimming!**

The importance of body condition and digital cushion thickness in the development of solar bruising and ulceration in this study is impossible to ignore. These findings reinforce the need to minimise body fat mobilisation during the transition period. Unfortunately, by the time changes in body condition score are identified, it is likely that digital cushion thickness has already been affected. Spotting excessive negative energy balance and taking action early is therefore an essential part of any lameness control programme.

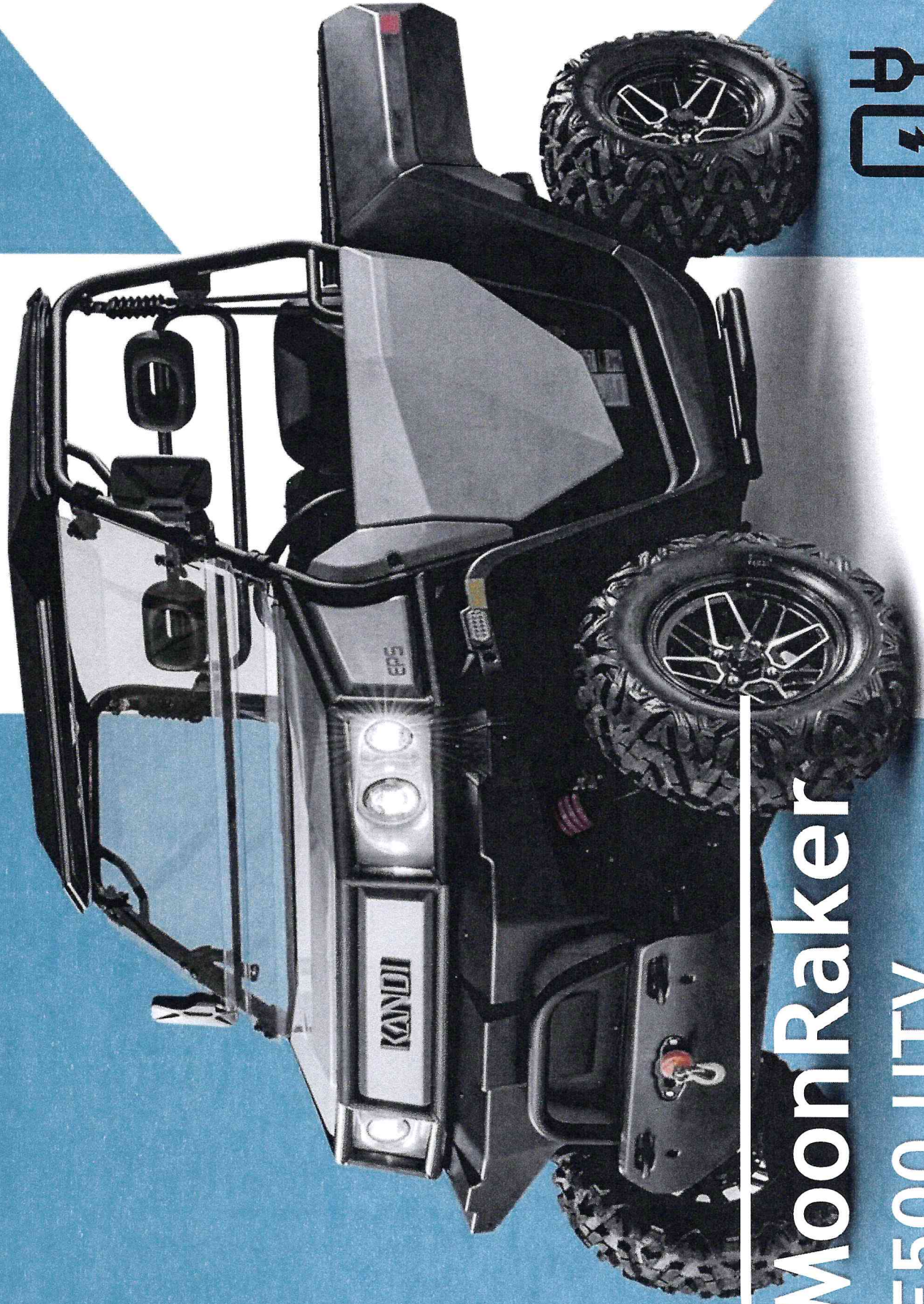
One way of achieving this is through routine metabolic profiling of the herd. **We regularly identify excessive negative energy balance in the run up to calving and in early lactation,** which left unchecked, leaves cows at risk of excessive body condition loss. The impact of this on fertility performance and disease risk is well established, with this new study from the team at Liverpool yet again highlighting the close association between poor body condition and digital cushion loss with solar ulcers and bruising.

To reliably identify problems with negative energy balance, we would typically recommend sampling cows in the last week of pregnancy, at 10-20 days calved and at around 100 days calved. As always, please do not hesitate to call before taking blood samples if you want to discuss your specific needs.



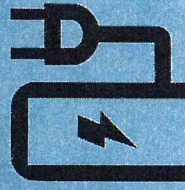


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## MoonRaker E500 UTV - Unstoppable Power

A utility task vehicle (UTV) is a larger type of ATV designed to haul heavier loads and additional passengers. ATVs are primarily used for recreation, whereas UTVs offer both recreation and used for professional tasks.

### INCREDIBLE DRIVING RANGE

Experience the freedom to roam further with up to an impressive 60-mile range. Embrace your adventurous spirit and go where no other utility vehicle has gone before!

### RAPID AND CONVENIENT CHARGING

The MoonRaker E500 has a robust 11.52 kWh Lithium battery recharges through a standard J1772 charging port in just 8 hours. With such efficient charging capabilities, you'll spend more time exploring and less time waiting.

### HEAVY DUTY HAULING

The MoonRaker E500 spacious cargo bed accommodates up to 566kg and features an electric power cargo bed system for easy loading and unloading. With a towing capacity of 800kg and a 50mm hitch, you can haul even the most demanding payloads with ease.

### UNBEATABLE COMFORT AND CONTROL

Boasting independent double A-Arm suspension on both the front and rear, The MoonRaker E500 delivers an incredibly smooth and stable ride. This exceptional handling is further enhanced by electric power steering (EPS) and reliable disc brakes on both the front and rear.

### EQUIPT FOR LUXURY AND ADVENTURE

The MoonRaker E500 comes fully equipped with premium features like a 1500kg winch, roof, cool flow windshield, 10-inch touch screen with a reversing camera, side doors, and running boards. Your ultimate workhorse and adventure vehicle is ready for action!





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MoonRaker E500 UTV - Unstoppable Power

DIMENSIONS

OVERALL SIZE L*W*H	2860 x 1810 x 1850mm
DISTANCE BETWEEN WHEELS F/R	1470 x 1400mm
WHEELBASE	1900mm
FRONT SHOCK ABSORBER	435mm
REAR SHOCK ABSORBER	525mm
VEHICLE WEIGHT	780kg

SPECS

PASSENGERS	2
TOP SPEED	40mph
MAXIMUM RANGE (Flat road surface)	100km
CHARGING TIME	8 Hours
RATED POWER	10kW
RATED VOLTAGE	72V
PEAK POWER/PEAK TORQUE	20kW/200Nm
RATED TURNING SPEED	3000r/min
MAXIMUM TURNING SPEED	6500r/min
MINIMUM TURNING DIAMETER	9.5m
MINIMUM GROUND CLEARANCE	225mm
MAX GRADEABILITY	30%
BRAKE DISTANCE	Approx 20m.
DRIVING TYPE	F/R Double Motor, 4WD
ELECTRIC MOTOR TYPE	AC Asynchronous
TYRE SPEC	AT26x9_14 / AT26x11_14
TYRE RIM	Alloy Rim 14x6J / 14X8J

BATTERY

POWER BATTERY TYPE	Lithium Ion Battery
TOTAL VOLTAGE OF POWER BATTERY PACK	25.6V
TOTAL CAPACITY OF POWER BATTERY PACK	150Ah

Battery combination: 3 boxes series, each box of the battery consists of 8 monomers in series.

OTHER

NOMINAL VOLTAGE OF CELL	3.2V
MONOMER CAPACITY	150 Ah
STEERING TYPE	EPS
BRAKE SYSTEM TYPE	Hydraulic F/R Disc Brake
PARKING BRAKE TYPE	Foot Brake
FRONT/REAR SUSPENSION TYPE	Double Independent suspension
REMOTE CONTROL	Remote Unlock
ELECTRIC WINCH	1100kg
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	TBOX/BMS/BTMS
CAR INFORMATION SYSTEM	PAD
SAFETY SYSTEM	Seat Belt/Hazard Warning/Light Switch/Reversing camera & Buzzer
TOWING CAPACITY	800kg

COLOUR OPTIONS

COLOUR OPTIONS	BLUE, BLACK, SILVER, LIGHT YELLOW, GREEN, RED
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