



# Merry Christmas

**LATEST NEWS FROM CIS** | December 2017

**This month's newsletter looks at housing, investment and mobility scoring with practical advice. We also share insights from a number of CIS customers who have recently invested in key areas linked to their dairy enterprise. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and your herd a**  
**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year**

## Dairy Housing – A best practical guide from AHDB

**The AHDB practical guide to dairy housing brings together numerous topics under the umbrella of dairy housing.**

The guide features a number of chapters covering a multitude of management systems including, straw yard housing, cubicles and kennel builds. It addresses housing the calf, youngstock and the dairy cow. It provides information on erecting new builds and adapting existing.

The full guide is available by post or download the individual chapters from the AHDB website.

[Read more...](#)



## Stick or twist? Should you invest in your dairy business?



**Many good business owners find that investing and growing their business is attractive, as it tends to build assets and grow net worth without losing much of the profit to the tax man.**

Rob Hitch, of Dodd & Co Chartered Accountants considers what farmers should be looking at before investing in their business.

[Read more...](#)

## Eyes Down: Tips for lameness control by Owen Atkinson



**We all know what a lame cow looks like. But it is well known that we miss seeing early stages of lameness unless we specifically look for it. Owen Atkinson of Dairy Veterinary Consultancy Limited shares his insight.**

I regularly teach farmers and vets to mobility score cows. When I first started doing it, I was worried I'd be "teaching Grandma to suck eggs". However, because I get so many appreciative comments afterwards, I no longer worry. Farmers tell me time and again the training has helped them look at cows in a different way. The key word is "look". Imagine you are a lion trying to pick out your prey - after all, that is the situation. Cows are prey animals, and they have adapted to mask pain. Man is a hunter, and has developed skills at reading the body language of animals. Mobility scoring is about re-honing those visual skills.



**[Read more...](#)**

## Laural Farm: New 16:32 Parlour



**Paul Rushmer is the 3rd generation of his family at Laural Farm at Thurlton, Norfolk where they milk 130 Jerseys.**

Supporting him with the farming business are his two sons, one who works full time the other part time. In addition to the dairy herd they retain the beef calves to finish and operate a pig unit on a bed and breakfast basis. In September they completed the installation of a new 16:32 swing over parlour replacing the one fitted in 1978.

**[Read more...](#)**

## Housing & Parlour Investment by LTL Partnership



**Two farming families are working together at Leigh near Stoke on Trent investing in the future of their dairy business.**

Trading as the LTL Partnership the Prince and Ede families have invested in new housing and are in the final stages of building a new parlour. The fourth generation family business are focused on increasing the herd size, currently at 178 Friesian Holsteins, to better utilise the new housing and parlour.

**[Read more...](#)**

## Heaves Farm: Installation of Unilight's Melatonin Management System

**Heaves Farm is run by the Mason family - Roger, Carole and their son Gary.**

The Mason family have farmed in the Levens area for over 100 years. Gary is the 5th generation to farm on the Levens Hall Estate where

they milk 180 pedigree Holsteins. Recent investment has seen the installation of Unilight's unique Dairy Light melatonin management system is the only lighting system uniquely designed to manage melatonin in dairy cattle. Developed specifically for the dairy industry the unique lighting will increase milk yields on average by 8 to 11%.

[Read more...](#)



## YourHerd: The complete herd management program



**The web based YourHerd management program has enhanced the power of CIS milk recording systems.**

It enables you to view the complete picture of the herd and investigate individual cows. YourHerd allows essential management decisions to be made without the need to spend valuable time searching through information from several different sources. A secure login displays the whole herd and individual cow performance.

[Read more...](#)

## 2018 CIS Diary

**THE 2018 CIS DIARY IS AVAILABLE TO ORDER**

The A4 diary is supplied in a ring binder with plenty of space to write notes against key dates.

Order from your CIS Regional or Area Manager or call 01923 695319 or [CLICK HERE](#)

Only  
**£19.50**  
plus VAT



### Zoe Michelle Pipe - CIS Milk Recorder



Zoe will cover the Somerset area as a Milk Recorder Contractor and be part of Karen Reeve's team. In her spare time Zoe enjoys horse riding and walks in the countryside. She has always had a strong passion for animals and enjoy rearing my own calves.

**Mobile: 07959 169241**

### Elissa Langley - CIS Milk Recorder



Joins Karen Reeve's team as a Milk Recorder Contractor covering the Bath and Shepton Mallet area. An active member and secretary of her Young Farmers Club, Elissa also helps out on the family dairy farm that currently milks around 190 British Holsteins.

**Mobile: 07850 950184**

### CIS on YouTube

## Have you seen our video on YouTube?

View the wide range of services we offer to provide data to make informed decisions about current and future herd performance.

Also see the services from a farmer's perspective and a focus on the milk recording service in mini videos.



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