



## LATEST NEWS FROM CIS | October 2016

### Welcome to the October edition of the CIS Newsletter.

This month focuses on Youngstock and ways to promote health throughout your herd.

#### HEALTH TESTING: JOHNE'S

Thinking about the cost of rearing the next generation of the herd, it makes sense to ensure that the calves are not challenged by disease as early in life as you can. Thinking about the range of diseases that the young calf can encounter, in the womb, during birth and in the first few weeks there are numerous health tests available to help producers minimise risks.

Many farms are signed up to one of the strategies of the National Johne's Action Plan which includes determining herd status and identifying dams which may pose a risk to their offspring and other calves in the calving pen.

Similarly making use of tissue testing to determine the BVD status of the individual calf can reduce the risk of any PI animals infecting other at risk animals in the herd. By identifying these PIs and removing those from the herd can also have a positive effect on the wider herd.

Contact your CIS Area Manager for more information on our range of health tests and prices.

[Click for contact details.](#)



JOHNE'S TESTING



HEALTH TESTING

#### THE COST OF REARING

Recent estimates of the cost of rearing have ranged from £1,000 to £1,500 and tend to average around £1,200. But to create a more accurate estimate and address an absence of definitive GB data on current heifer rearing practices and costs of rearing. AHDB Dairy funded a survey of 102 dairy farms across England, Scotland and Wales.

[Click to read more...](#)



With a large proportion of their surplus stock market based within Scotland, the team at Birds Hill Farm knew that moving the focus to a demonstrable herd health status was a must. When BVDFree went live in England at the start of July the herd was one of the first to sign up to the scheme recognising the value of having a central scheme to help them display their BVD test results to any potential purchasers.

[Click to read more...](#)



## CALF INITIATIVES

Under the 2013 review of Dairy Cattle Welfare Strategy, which was originally developed by industry back in 2010, a new priority was added under the title of Calf and Heifer Rearing. Youngstock was previously addressed under wider headings but it was felt that the 'future herd' needed to have a more coordinated approach to 'improve the survival rate of youngstock and increase % of calves that make it into the milking herd.

Holstein UK have undertaken to 'champion' this priority – this entails working across industry with those who do knowledge transfer activity, data gathering and farm audits to name but a few to ensure we have consistent messaging about best practice. We are also looking at how we can share data to help producers measure and benchmark their own herd's performance, so look out for new additions to data on Your Herd as we move into 2017.

This work all sits alongside initiatives that you may have seen in the press, on social media or at events such as AHDB Dairy Calf to Calving, Volac Feed for Growth, XLVets heifer benchmarking meetings etc. all of which CIS are pleased to have fed into over the past months.

**For further information on CIS engagement with such activities please contact Head of Products and Services, contact Kate Cross: [katecross@thecis.co.uk](mailto:katecross@thecis.co.uk) or 01923 695337**



## WOMEN IN DAIRY CONFERENCE

The Women in Dairy Conference took place on Wednesday 28th September in Worcester, attended by Emma Young, CIS Assistant Area Manager. The focus of this event was to connect, share and inspire.

The day was geared to farmers and people associated within the dairy industry but a strong focus was on the farmers who made up 33% of the audience.

[Click to read overview of the day...](#)



Supporting women in dairy to achieve and celebrate success

## CIS MANAGEMENT DIARY 2017

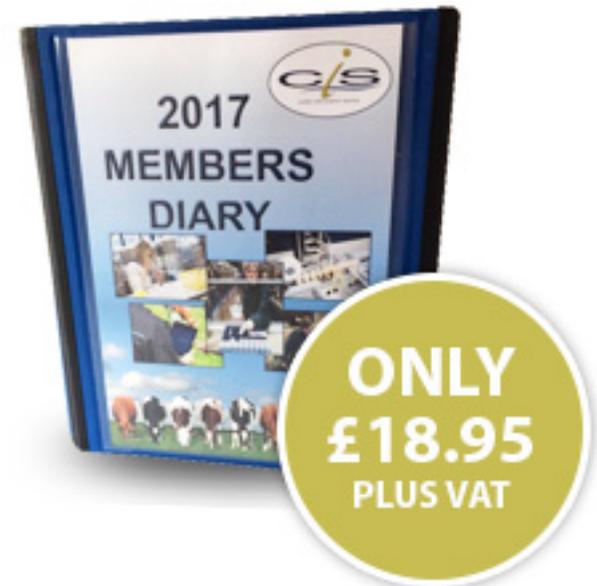
**The CIS Management Diary is an invaluable tool for all dairy farmers and their staff.**

It includes:

- Full 1 week to view diary for day to day herd management
- Medicine and Movement records
- Breeding, Feeding and Waste Management Plans
- Complies fully with National Farm Assurance

Diaries can be ordered through your CIS Milk Recorder, CIS Area Manager or from the CIS Processing Office -

Tel: **01923 695213** or Email: [johannaholmes@thecis.co.uk](mailto:johannaholmes@thecis.co.uk)



## YOUR HERD WEBSITE

Following recent feedback we are starting to make a number of small changes to the Your Herd website to make it more user friendly. We would welcome feedback on how we can enhance the site to make it more beneficial to you and your business.

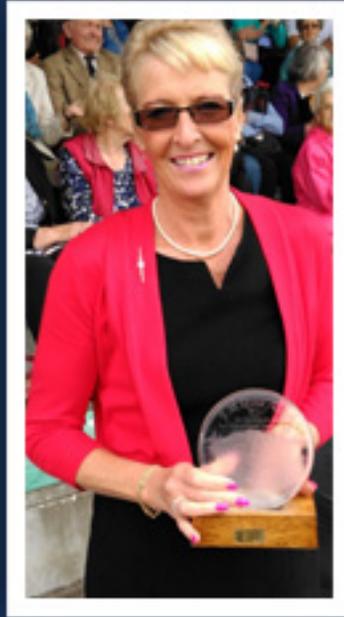
[Click here](#) to activate email to submit your feedback, thank you.

## WHAT'S ON

<b>All Breeds All Britain Calf Show, Three Counties Showground</b>	<b>14th to 16th October</b>
<b>Northern Dairy Expo, Borderway Auction Mart, Carlisle</b>	<b>20th October</b>
<b>Welsh Dairy Show, Carmarthen Showground</b>	<b>25th October</b>
<b>South West Dairy Show, Castle Douglas</b>	<b>26th October</b>

### Sheila Ellis

Congratulations to Sheila Ellis, former CIS Milk Recorder, was recently honoured by Dumfries Show and given the J M Rome Award for her services to agriculture. Sheila was a milk recorder, in the Dumfries area, for 41 years before taking early retirement last year.



### GenusABS Long Life Cow Award

CIS congratulate Alan & Susan Throup, Higher House Farm, Skipton, on winning the GenusABS Long Life Cow award, at UK Dairy Day, with Dalesbrad Bradla Miranda 4

### Cream Awards

The CIS would like to congratulate the Mitchell family and their team at KSH Farms, Kelso, on winning the High Yield Award at the Cream Awards. Congratulations also go to Wood Park Farm, who were highly commended in this category.

**Website - [www.thecis.co.uk](http://www.thecis.co.uk)**

**KEEP IN TOUCH**   

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