

Housing + Health

At this time of year we all face the issues of the health of our animals as they are housed. With reports of cattle coughing more than usual, an immediate housing dose of wormer which covers lungworm would be worth considering. Please speak to your SQP at Harpers Farm Supplies or your rep to make a plan to cover worm burdens and fluke.

Another way you can help your cattle is to clip out their backs from shoulder to tail, when cattle get used to their winter diet they will need to let heat out and prevent sweating, make sure you have a really good set of clippers and plenty of cutters and combs. We stock the best clipping products available with the Heiniger range, speak to us about cordless or cabled clippers that will make the job easy.

Think also about your housing system, cattle will always benefit from having access to an outside yard. Can you, with a few more gates, water troughs and barriers, create more space for your cattle? You may find you can reduce bedding by doing this. Speak to Guy Barriball or Elliot Pomeroy if you are looking for equipment or ideas to improve your cattle housing and management.



Fluke Treatment

Deciding which Fluke treatment to use for cattle at housing needs to be planned in advance of cattle coming in.

There are various factors which will determine product selection, making the right choice can make sure growth rates are not impacted by a Fluke burden and time can be saved not having to re-treat later in the winter:

- Active ingredient – Which active ingredient you use will determine how long cattle need to be housed before the product used has maximum efficacy against Fluke. For example, a Triclabendazole drench (Endofluke/Fasinex 240) can be used 2 weeks post housing, whereas an Oxytocanide drench (Zanil) needs to be used after 10-12 weeks of cattle being housed.



- Administration – Cattle flukicides can be oral drench, injectable or pour on. Making sure you have the right handling facilities and staff levels to use the desired method is imperative.
- Withdrawal Period – The meat withdrawal period on Flukicides varies from 5 days (Levafas Diamond) up to 143 days (Cydectin Triclamox Pour on). This means cattle should be grouped and a plan for treatments put in place. Please note there is no flukicide with a zero milk withdrawal – controlling Fluke in a dairy herd needs to be discussed with your SQP or vet.

Please contact one of our instore or on farm SQP's to discuss your requirements for housing and for competitive prices.

Kilco Teat Dips

Which Kilco teat dip products are the best to use for housed herds?

It is very important to ensure cows teats are effectively managed to prevent any likelihood of mastitis infection, poor bactoscan and somatic cell counts. Healthy teat condition is also essential to get the best out of your cows during milking.

Our Kilco range of dairy chemicals provides a variety of options for both pre and post milking. Some products have been formulated to be used for both pre and post milking, making them a straightforward option for a busy farm. We also carry a range of post dips that create a barrier or film on the teat to stop bacteria gathering on them. Remember, it is important that these products are removed before the next milking.



Barrier dips such as Biolac Film (Lactic acid and Salicylic acid), Novo Dip (Chlorhexidine and Lactic acid), Iodofilm (Iodine) are perfect for dip only application. These dips have low consumption rates which make them economical and efficient, formulated with kind to skin ingredients to improve general teat condition.

Novo Spray (Chlorhexidine and lactic acid) for a sprayable application, extended duration, low consumption barrier suitable for spraying and dipping. Gentle on skin for improving teat condition all year round.

A cheaper option from our Kilco range would be Glycodip (Iodine), this has high iodine levels and high emollient levels for superior teat conditioning.

Every farm is different in what they require, if a farm is using chlorhexidine in the summer, then a change to iodine over the winter months is always a good idea to consider, helping to prevent pathogenic resistance against active ingredients.

*If you would like to discuss any dairy hygiene products,
please do not hesitate to contact Emma Collings on 01409 259 600.*

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Now is the time to invest in a handling system

For many reading this, working with animals is part of your daily routine. We don't think twice about checking the cows and monitoring the health of our livestock. But working with animals doesn't come without risk. Is it time to invest in a handling system? That will help mitigate risk and achieve a better working environment for you and your herd.

Having a system that reduces the stress on your livestock makes all the difference when it comes to creating a positive experience for your animals. It will also make it easier to encourage cattle through any handling system. To help reduce the stress levels, it is important to manage the noise level, this will help to keep livestock calmer and will not encourage lively behaviour from the rest of the cattle.



We work with two market-leading manufacturers of cattle handling equipment. Arrowquip are at the forefront of research and development. As a leading manufacturer of cattle handling systems, Arrowquip have developed the quietest handling system on the market. We also stock British-made Bateman handling systems, offering fully galvanised systems, custom built and off the shelf, their equipment is a fantastic example for user safety and unique to the market.

With the phase-out of BPS now imminent, making the most of available grants will be significantly beneficial for all farmers. For up and coming grants and to discuss your options, speak to our fully trained team who will be happy to advise you. For more information call the office on 01409 259 600.

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Contact Details

Dan Miles (Business Development)

dan.miles@harpersfarmssupplies.co.uk 07976 627 014

Guy Barriball (Farm and Yard Sales)

guy.barriball@harpersfarmssupplies.co.uk 07384 811 401

Elliot Pomeroy (Farm Sales Specialist)
elliott.pomeroy@harpersfarmssupplies.co.uk

Emma Collings (Farm Sales Specialist)
emma.collings@harpersfarmssupplies.co.uk

Harpers Farm Supplies

01409 259 600 farmersdirect.co.uk enquiries@harpersfarmssupplies.co.uk
Harrier Park, Shadrick Way, Holsworthy Industrial Estate, Devon, EX22 6FU

