



Prepare for spring turnout

As spring turnout approaches, it's important to ensure that parasite control plans are in place to support a productive grazing period. Summer grazing brings opportunities for better productivity but also challenges, particularly regarding parasite management. Proper preparation is key to safeguarding herd health and maximising performance throughout the grazing season.

Here are some steps to take before turnout:

Plan pasture usage: Use clean paddocks for youngstock, particularly calves and heifers, to minimise exposure to gutworm larvae early in the season. Rotate pastures, or rest fields where possible, to manage parasite burdens effectively.

Monitor FECs: Regular pooled faecal-egg-count testing of youngstock, at two to four week intervals from turnout, will give an indication of when worm burdens have established, and treatment can be targeted to protect production and reduce pasture contamination.

Prioritise susceptible stock: Calves and first-season youngstock are more at risk from parasitic disease. Allocate cleaner grazing areas to these animals and consider moving them to silage or hay aftermath later in the grazing season to reduce worm burdens.

Consult your vet or a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) at your local merchant to develop a parasite control plan tailored to your herd and farm. Balancing exposure to parasites like gutworms and lungworm allows immunity to develop while minimising parasitic disease risks. Farms with known lungworm may benefit from a vaccine administered before turnout, but continued monitoring remains crucial.

Remember, targeting early-season wormer treatments based on FEC results can reduce overall wormer use, can reduce costs, and helps preserve their efficacy.

If wormer treatments are required, EPRINEX® Pour-On is a tried and tested zero-milk withhold wormer that treats and provides protection against reinfection with the most pathogenic gutworm species *Ostertagia ostertagi* and the cattle lungworm for up to 28 days.



Sioned Timothy,
Technical Services Manager,
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health

**For more information,
talk to your vet or animal
medicines advisor.**

EPRINEX® Pour-On for beef and dairy cattle contains eprinomectin, POM-VPS. Advice should be sought from the prescriber. Prescription decisions are for the person issuing the prescription alone. Further information available in the SPC or from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd, RG12 8YS, UK. Tel: 01344 746957. Email: vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com. EPRINEX® and the Steerhead® logo are registered trademarks of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health France SCS, used under licence. ©2025 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd. All rights reserved. Date of preparation: Jan 2025. UI-BOV-0003-2025. Use Medicines Responsibly.

COW TALK

Stride's founding partners are Ceva, HerdVision, IVC Farm Vets, Neogen and Zinpro. And now, following the success of phase one and the impact the initiative is having, three new partners have come on board.

Specialists in lameness detection and prevention equipment, Hoofcount is a leader in the design and manufacture of automatic footbaths. Its innovative lameness detection device, PediVue, uses AI to highlight the earliest signs of digital dermatitis, as well as changes to the hoof.

NoBACZ is a wound care company, specialising in sustainable, rapid-setting flexible barrier dressings. These are made using a patented natural polymer that sets rapidly on contact with wounds to provide a waterproof barrier. This keeps environmental pathogens and contaminants out and facilitates skin repair.

Teemore Engineering is a leader in animal comfort, supplying an extensive range of cubicle mats and mattresses in addition to Magellan rubber flooring and cattle-handling equipment. All its products are targeted to increase efficiency, comfort and handler safety.

"These new partners complement the existing group and will extend its knowledge and capabilities," added the spokesperson. "Phase two of the initiative will focus on using the survey results to deliver practical, producer-centric advice to make a real difference to improving mobility and hoof health on UK units."

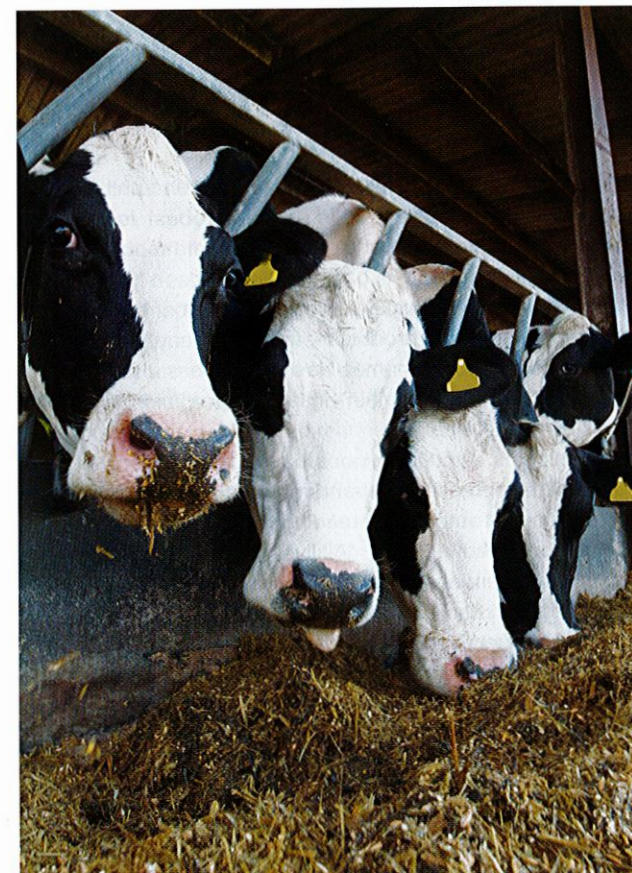


UK producers continue to reduce antimicrobial use

The use of antimicrobials on UK dairy units has reduced by almost a fifth during the past five years, according to the latest Dairy Antimicrobial Focus Report from Kingshay.

The report compiled by Kingshay, which is part of the VetPartners group, is based on data from 879 dairy herds across the UK using its Antimicrobial Monitoring Service for the period ending March 2024.

The report shows that individual herd antimicrobial use ranged from 0.02 to 90.45mg/PCU. However, average total antimicrobial usage for the year was 12.7mg/kg PCU – down from 13.7mg/PCU in 2023 and 15.7mg/PCU in 2020.



Herd progress: antimicrobial use is falling

Westpoint Farm Vets' and report co-author Tim Potter said the figures show that industry efforts to reduce antimicrobial use are paying dividends. "The aim isn't for zero antimicrobials to be used in farmed animals, but instead for their use to be reduced as much as possible while still maintaining their availability and effectiveness to treat disease.

"The latest data suggests that neither herd health nor milk production have been impacted by this reduction in use," he added. "In fact, as total antimicrobial use has decreased, mastitis rates and bulk somatic cell counts have also reduced, and there hasn't been a rise in culling for mastitis or an increase in the rate of cows leaving the herd."

The report, which also includes health data from Kingshay's Health Manager Service for the first time this year, found that mastitis rates fell to 26 cases per 100 cows – down from 29 in 2023 and 42 in 2020.

Antibiotic dry-cow tube usage declined by 5.8% in the year to 0.425 DCDVet (the defined course dose) while lactating-cow tube usage reduced by 10.2% to 0.386 DCDVet.

Mastitis treatment is one of the key reasons for using antimicrobials in the dairy sector, but the fall in the number of cases and associated decrease in tube usage demonstrates the dairy sector's commitment to addressing the challenge of this disease, according to Dr Potter.

"The dairy industry has made huge strides in its efforts to reduce the use of highest priority, critically important antimicrobials, and the number of herds using any at all has dropped by nearly three-quarters since 2020 to 3.9%," adds Kingshay's Emma Puddy, who co-authored the report.

Despite this progress she believes there is room for continued improvement, particularly in the 25% of herds using the most antimicrobials. "The impact of these higher users is significant because they account for 50% of total group usage," she adds.



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EPRINEX®, a zero milk withhold wormer, is proven to improve the productivity of dairy cows and heifers by removing production-limiting gutworms and lungworms.

- Increases milk yield by up to 2 litres per day¹
- Protects fertility and reduces calving interval²
- Protects against reinfection by gutworms and lungworm³

Find out more, visit
beattheparasites.com



1. McPherson WB et al. (2001) New Zealand Veterinary Journal. 49:106-110. 2. McPherson WB et al. (1999) Proc AAVP, New Orleans. * Up to 28 days control of reinfection with *O. ostertagi* and *D. viviparus*, and up to 21 days control of reinfection with *Cooperia* spp.

EPRINEX® Pour-On for beef and dairy cattle contains eprinomectin, POM-VPS. Advice should be sought from the prescriber. Further information available in the SPC or from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd, RG12 8YS, UK. Tel: 01344 746957. Email: vetenquiries@boehringer-ingelheim.com. EPRINEX® and the Steerhead® logo are registered trademarks of Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health France SCS, used under licence. ©2023 Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd. All rights reserved. Date of preparation: Feb 2023. UI-BOV-0025-2023. Use Medicines Responsibly.

