

## What happens next?

The completed 'Sheet 3' and the blood samples are sent to the DHHPS at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh for analysis, comment and recommendation. You can then call a farm team meeting where findings can be discussed.

Comments and decisions made at the meetings should be recorded and the information distributed to all concerned.

Results and report should be back on farm within a week of receipt of the blood samples in Edinburgh.

## The advantages of DHHPS

- Impartial, unbiased approach to each farm
- Solutions tailored to individual farms
- Professional support for farmers and advisors
- Helps build lasting relationships between farmer, nutritional advisor, veterinary surgeon and DHHPS to work together as a team
- Results are processed within a week, enabling rapid identification and correction of problems
- Quarterly newsletters to all members
- Membership option to spread cost
- Detailed fertility and mastitis analysis
- Workshops and farmer meetings

**Improving the nutritional and disease status of your herd will lead to increased profitability due to improved efficiency and production.**

If you wish to learn more about our services contact our office or visit our website.



## DAIRY HERD HEALTH & PRODUCTIVITY SERVICE

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## METABOLIC PROFILES

"ASK THE COWS"



**DAIRY HERD HEALTH & PRODUCTIVITY SERVICE**

## Prevention and control - the DHHPS concept

The basic concept of the DHHPS is not to wait for trouble but to identify potential problems before they can be noticed on the farm.

*Prevention is better than cure.*

- DHHPS Metabolic Profiles can be used to 'Ask the Cows' what they think of their diet at the moment.
- DHHPS Quarterly herd health reports allow good and bad trends to be identified early and action taken based on facts rather than guesswork.

## The benefits of teamwork

The Dairy Herd Health and Productivity Service (DHHPS) works on the principle that three heads are better than one. It provides the dairy farmer with a unique framework for co-operation between their local veterinary surgeon, specialist nutritionalist and staff and the University of Edinburgh Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

This combination of specialist knowledge and expertise can offer enormous benefits. Teamwork is the key to greater productivity and profitability.

## Nutrition

Today, successful nutrition depends as much on management as on the right feeds being available. Many diseases of dairy cows (such as LDAs, Milk Fever and Ketosis) are directly linked to nutrition but there can be many other longer-term effects on fertility and productivity.

1. **How do you know that the ration is working?**
2. **Is the forage analysis accurate?**
3. **Are the cows actually eating the formulated ration?**
4. **Are there underlying disease problems with the cows?**
5. **Does the ration need fine tuning?**
6. **Are the cows digesting it properly?**
7. **Are some cows missing out on their share?**
8. **Are you making best use of your forages?**

## Blood sampling - asking the cows what they think

A major component of the DHHPS is pre-planned blood sampling of groups of cows within the herd at strategic times of the year. After each change of diet, blood from the groups of cows is checked for energy, protein and mineral status.

For successful interpretation of blood results, selection of cows at key stages of production is crucial. Full individual and herd background information must also be provided.



## Which cows?

A maximum of 17 cows are sampled on each occasion.

- **Seven cows in early lactation calved between 10-20 days**
- **Five cows in mid lactation 80-120 days calved**
- **Five dry cows within 10 days of calving**

Two Lithium Heparin (green) tubes and one Fluoride/Oxalate (grey tube) are required from each cow.

## The bloods will be analysed for:

Energy status: NEFA, BOHB, Glucose,

Protein: Urea-N, Albumin, Globulin,

Minerals: Phosphate, Magnesium,

Trace Elements: Copper, GSHPx (selenium)

Other tests are available - contact the office to enquire.

## When is the best time for sampling?

Blood sampling should be carried out two weeks after a major dietary change. The timing of test and selection of cows is specific to each farm.

It requires discussion and pre-planning, with reference to expected calving patterns and feed changes if useful practical information is to be obtained.

## What information is required?

At the same time as the blood samples are taken the following information on the individual cows should be collected: calving date, body weight, condition score, current and expected daily yield. Ration details for each group of cows sampled must also be provided.

Herd milk quality and analytical results of the feed should also be sent where available.

A 'Sheet 3' should be completed to submit this information.

