

# Farm Animal Services

## Dairy Herd Health & Productivity Service



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH  
The Royal (Dick) School  
of Veterinary Studies

# Welcome to the Dairy Herd Health & Productivity Service (DHHPS)

The Dairy Herd Health & Productivity Service (DHHPS) is a farm animal consultancy service within The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh.

The DHHPS was set up in 1977 in order to provide preventative veterinary medicine (Herd Health) programmes for UK farmers and veterinary surgeons – some 30 years before their current rise in popularity! The principles were (and remain) to encourage close co-operation between farmers, their veterinary surgeons, nutritional advisors and DHHPS consultants.

# Services Provided

## **Metabolic profile analysis of dairy cows**

By “asking the cows what they think of their diet” using strategic, pre-planned blood sampling, rapid information on nutritional status can be obtained, with the aim of monitoring and improving herd performance. The DHHPS analyses blood samples from approximately 10,000 dairy cows each year.

## **Beef and Sheep blood testing**

We also receive samples from beef cows, sheep and the occasional goat herd. Most of this blood sampling is done either during the winter housing period, or more particularly in late pregnancy to rapidly identify issues with energy balance, protein intakes or mineral status.

## **Herd Health recording**

The DHHPS database is set up to record culling, disease and fertility figures on individual dairy farms by the use of a simple monthly data collection service (via the internet, fax or hard copy). Quarterly herd health reports are generated to summarise trends in culling, disease and fertility, and comparisons are made both “within-farm” and against average UK/DHHPS figures (“benchmarking”).

## **Fertility recording and analysis**

We use Interherd, Interherd+ and TotalVet, which enable us to record and analyse the vast amounts of data available to dairy farmers on their herd health and productivity. We offer a “bureau service” to farmers, which allows us to send regular (usually weekly) action lists to the farmer and his veterinary surgeon as well as regular reports. We can also perform detailed analyses of data collected from on-farm computer systems or milk recording organisations. Detailed fertility analysis, cell count action lists, Qsums, monitoring of Key Performance Indicators – all of this is possible!

### **AHDB Dairy Mastitis Control Plan**

DHHPS vets deliver the AHDB Dairy Mastitis Control Plan, which uses a farm questionnaire alongside analyses of clinical mastitis and cell count records to identify the origins of the major udder health issues on the farm, and provide targeted recommendations specific to your farm.

### **AHDB Dairy Healthy Feet Programme**

DHHPS staff are registered mobility mentors for the AHDB Dairy Healthy Feet Programme, which provides a structured approach to help farmers make important progress towards diagnosing and controlling lameness problems.

### **Consultancy on all aspects of farm animal health and production**

As farms get larger with more animals per member of staff, disease prevention and improving herd health become ever more critical to overall farm profitability. DHHPS vets have both the experience and advanced veterinary qualifications to help with all aspects of herd health and productivity. We also produce a number of leaflets on various aspects of cattle and sheep management, available via our website or the DHHPS office.

### **Research work**

We have a wide range of contacts within the livestock industry and can help with setting up, monitoring and analyses of data from “on farm” trials for feed and pharmaceutical companies. The University of Edinburgh also has a 240 cow dairy herd with the infrastructure and experience necessary to undertake a wide range of farm trial work, from testing of specific feed products to novel methods of monitoring health in cows.



# Advantages of DHHPS

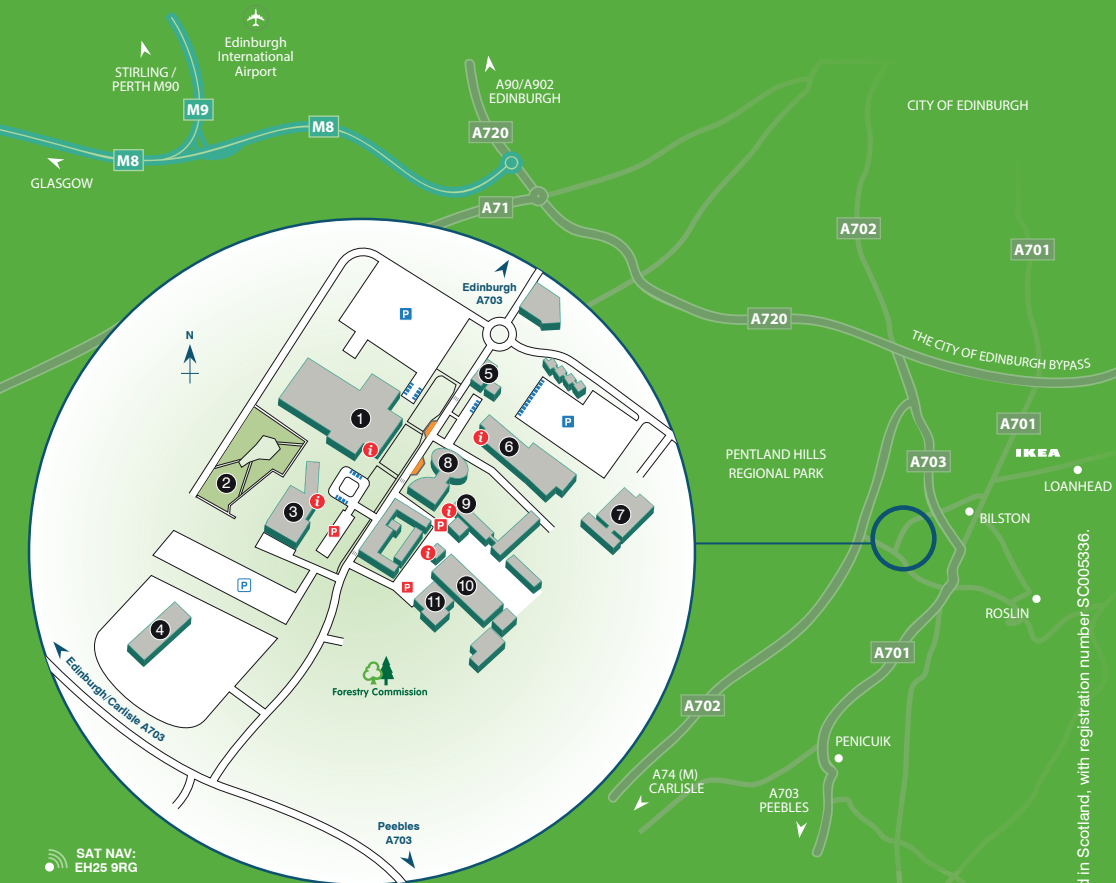
- Impartial, unbiased approach to each farm
- Solutions tailored to individual farms
- Professional support for farmers and advisors
- Results processed within a week, enabling rapid identification and correction of problems
- Workshops and farmer meetings
- DHHPS vets have further specialist veterinary qualifications in cattle health and reproduction
- Detailed fertility and mastitis analysis



## Dairy Herd Health & Productivity Service

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1. Veterinary Teaching Building
2. Community Garden
3. The Hospital for Small Animals and Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre
4. The Burnstead Building
5. Campus Service Centre

6. The Roslin Institute
7. The Greenwood Building
8. Campus Hub and Roslin Innovation Centre
9. Farm Animal Practice
10. Equine Hospital and Practice
11. Farm Animal Hospital

- Overflow parking
- Disabled parking
- Main entrance & reception
- Bus stop
- Client parking
- Parking

**The Power of Three:** The unique offering of Excellence in Clinical, Teaching and Research make up the three pillars of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

As part of The University of Edinburgh, the Farm Animal Practice is a not-for-profit organisation.