

CMRG MEETING

11.00 am, WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2007

**PATERSON AND WATSON MEETING ROOM,
STEWART STOCKMAN BUILDING, VLA WEYBRIDGE**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Surveillance data
 - (i) VLA
 - (ii) SAC
 - (iii) DARDNI
5. National milk quality statistics
6. Cell count ring trials
7. Research
8. Therapy and prevention
9. Education and publicity
10. Any other business
11. Date of next meeting

Points arising from the Central Mastitis Review Group Meeting held at VLA Weybridge on 9 May 2007

Unauthorised herbal products in applicators indistinguishable from standard intramammary syringes

The Group will continue to monitor this issue and will seek action from the VMD Enforcement Team as appropriate.

Accreditation of UK dairy engineers

There had been little response to the Group's letter on this issue, published in the Veterinary Record in March 2007. Although there is broad support for an accreditation scheme for dairy engineers, it appears that the main sticking point is who will fund an appropriate scheme. The Group will continue to try to progress this issue, possibly through a working party.

National milk quality statistics

The average GB milk quality statistics published on the MDC datum website on 8 May 2007 and the Northern Ireland milk quality statistics for 2006 were noted. It appears that there may now be a plateauing out of the national cell count.

Quality assurance of milk somatic cell counting

The results of the latest International Dairy Federation cell count ring trial were discussed. The results had been discussed with the four British laboratories that participated and all had responded positively. It is hoped that all four laboratories will subscribe to the Ceca-Lait milk testing proficiency scheme.

Short dry periods

The Group agreed that there is no robust evidence to support claims that a short dry period is beneficial to udder health. Although the susceptibility of the nonlactating mammary gland to new infections is well recognised, the main risk periods for new infections are the first two weeks and the last two weeks of the dry period; shortening the dry period does not remove these high-risk periods. A possible benefit of reduced yields at drying off has been suggested but pre-dry yield has a small effect as a risk factor for mastitis and it is possible to manipulate yields at drying off for 50–60 day dry periods; many herds have a pre-dry group to facilitate this. There may be a role for short dry periods if they allow improvements in management of dry cows because fewer cows are dry at any

one time. The Group was concerned about the possibility of misleading headline claims about short dry periods.

Research

The University of Nottingham has a PhD studentship to investigate trends in NMR cell count data.

The MDC is still carrying out its pilot study on how best to implement its mastitis control plan through local vets. There was a good response to a Veterinary Record letter inviting vets to register their interest in this scheme.

Conferences

The next British Mastitis Conference will be held on 10 October 2007 at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 8 November 2007.