



Livestock Matters

www.livestockmatters.co.uk

natalie@livestockmatters.co.uk

07872 537154

In August...

Watch out for Summer Mastitis

We have seen several cases of Summer Mastitis recently, coinciding with high levels of fly activity due to the warm, wet weather conditions. Cases have been seen in dairy replacements, both in-calf and yearling heifers.

Prevent Summer Mastitis by:

- Avoiding grazing areas of high fly populations - near trees, water and areas of long grass
- Preventative use of insecticides
The cost is easily justified by the difference in value between a replacement and a beef heifer



Check heifers at least daily – look out for animals standing away from the group. Affected animals must be isolated and prompt treatment given.

Prepare ewes and rams for breeding

With cull ewe prices high, there is no excuse for keeping problem ewes in the flock – traits such as fertility, poor feet and milk production are heritable and thus passed on from ewe to lamb. Select breeding ewes from twin-bearing ewes with no lambing-time problems and healthy udders and feet.

Don't forget the rams – examine your rams 2 months before tupping time for:



- General health
- Teeth contact with dental pad
- Signs of orf around the lips
- Body Condition Score 3.0-3.5
- Foot lesions
- Testicles - firm, similar size and moving freely within the scrotum
- Scrotal circumference
 - 30-44cm in mature rams
 - >28cm in ram lambs
- Penis – no injury or infection