

**About Dairy UK:**

*Dairy UK is a lobbying organisation that represents the interests of the whole dairy industry. This newsletter picks out issues of interest for milk producers, but Dairy UK is active for farmers in many other areas.*

*Set up in 2004, Dairy UK has established itself as an influential organisation. By effectively representing the interests of farmers, processors and milkmen, we can speak with a single voice on behalf of the whole dairy sector. Dairy UK compliments but does not duplicate the activities of the established farmer organisations.*

*Our activities are governed by a Board made up of representatives from all sectors of the industry, including two dairy farmers (Roger Evans and Gwyn Jones) nominated by the Farmers' Forum. Dairy UK's independent chairman is the Rt Honourable David Curry MP.*

*If you would like to find out more, just give us a call!*

020 4786 7244  
[info@dairyUK.org](mailto:info@dairyUK.org)

[www.dairyUK.org](http://www.dairyUK.org)

**May 2008**

## **Dairy Farming Summit to tackle climate change**

Scottish cabinet secretary Richard Lochhead has been confirmed as the keynote speaker at the International Dairy Federation's first ever Dairy Farming Summit this summer.

Taking place in Edinburgh from 25 to 27 June, dairy farmers can still register for the event, which offers an opportunity to engage with the climate change debate and visit the SAC's Crichton demonstration farm.

There, delegates will see some of the techniques being used to save money and cut carbon emissions and will be able to ask for practical advice on everything from NVZs to methane emissions and water use.

Farmers from more than 40 countries will bring their expertise in dealing with specific environmental problems to this interactive conference. Through five short films, different farmers will talk about energy use, access to water, global warming, pollution and biodiversity.

Major speakers include the author of the FAO report, Livestock's Long Shadow, which claimed that up to 18% of global carbon emissions were connected with farm animals, environmentalist and Northern Irish dairy farmer, John Gilliland, and IDF President, Jim Begg.

**For full event details and to register, call Claire Bowley on 01797 223626, or go to [www.eventsforce.net/idfdfs](http://www.eventsforce.net/idfdfs)**

## **Milk Road Map targets greener performance**

Dairy farmers, processors and retailers joined to launch the Milk Road Map earlier this month. Produced by the Sustainable Consumption Task Force of the Dairy Supply Chain Forum, chaired by Dairy UK, this ambitious document sets out a range of environmental targets for the entire dairy sector.

Farmers have committed to cut the greenhouse gas balance from their farms by 20% to 30% before 2020, set up herd health and soil management plans, and use much more renewable energy. Dairy processors will recycle 50% of plastic milk bottles back into milk bottles, slash water use and cut carbon emissions.

Dairy UK Technical Director Ed Komorowski said: "The dairy sector is leading the food industry with this initiative, and we are laying down a benchmark for other products to emulate."

The Road Map was supported by Defra and endorsed by food and farming minister Jeff Rooker. He said: "Delivering on these targets will be a significant achievement. I welcome the UK dairy industry's collaborative approach in developing this plan of action."

**Contact: Ed Komorowski on 020 7486 7244 or [ekomorowski@dairyUK.org](mailto:ekomorowski@dairyUK.org)**

## Dairy UK takes Bluetongue group to Holland

Dairy UK has arranged a visit to the Netherlands this week to study the impact that two years of Bluetongue has had there. The visit comes on top of Dairy UK's support for the livestock industry's Joint campaign Against Bluetongue (JAB), which aims to get British farmers vaccinating

The Netherlands has been badly affected by the disease and is preparing for a third vector session, after its rapid spread in 2006 and 2007. As this newsletter went to press, delegates were meeting animal health experts, dairy farmers and representatives from the dairy sector. Dairy UK was also joined by representatives from the NFU, Ulster Farmers Union and dairy processors.

The group will visit several sites and meet representatives of GD Deventer, the Dutch animal health organisation, to discuss the last two sessions of bluetongue, ongoing research, the Dutch vaccination plan and its possible future impact. Key areas of concern include infection rates, milk yield and fertility.

Contact: Fergus McReynolds on 020 7486 7244 or [fmcreynolds@fdairyUK.org](mailto:fmcreynolds@fdairyUK.org)

## Dairy UK sponsors work into Johne's disease in cattle

Dairy UK is sponsoring a project to develop a test for MAP, the organism responsible for Johne's disease in cattle. The test would allow raw milk, pasteurised milk and dairy products to be screened for the bacterium's presence.

Johne's hits herd profitability by causing diarrhoea, loss of fertility, and reduced milk yields. Reducing or eliminating MAP at source would be the most effective way of preventing Johne's in animals.

Some countries such as the Netherlands and Denmark have a high incidence of the disease, and have put control programmes in place. These control schemes are operated entirely by industry, since Johne's is considered an economic disease.

Defra is expected to report on a survey into the UK incidence of Johne's disease in the autumn.

Contact: Ed Komorowski on 020 7486 7244 or [ekomorowski@dairyUK.org](mailto:ekomorowski@dairyUK.org)

## WTO cheese move could lead to flood of imports

Dairy UK is fighting suggestions that the EU should open up import quotas for cheese in order to secure a deal at the World Trade Organisation.

Working through its European counterpart, Dairy UK has made it clear that the European Commission should not nominate cheese as a 'sensitive product' – a mechanism which allows countries to keep high import tariffs for selected products in exchange for significant import quotas.

Further progress in the WTO talks has recently hinged on this issue, as exporting countries have put the EU under pressure to offer import quotas for cheese. The European Dairy Association has written to the Commission outlining its opposition.

Contact: Peter Dawson on 020 7486 7244 or [pdawson@dairyUK.org](mailto:pdawson@dairyUK.org)

## Dairy UK lobbies Brussels over CAP reform plans

Proposals for the CAP Health Check were published by the European Commission this week (20 May). The measures are very similar to those leaked earlier in the year. At their heart is a milk quota increase of only 1% every year for the years 2009/10 to 2013/14, with a review in 2011.

Dairy UK believes the Commission's own analysis predicts such modest rises will not be enough to generate a soft landing. There is also a danger that the review will re-open the debate on abolishing quotas at all.

That is why Dairy UK is calling for a minimum 1% annual quota rise, with the possibility of further discretionary rises if the market justifies it.

Protein support schemes will be retained, but butter subsidies will be scrapped. Once launched, the Commission's proposals will be thrashed out in a series of working group meetings over the summer.

Contact: Peter Dawson on 020 7486 7244 or [pdawson@dairyUK.org](mailto:pdawson@dairyUK.org)

## Dairy UK in debate with FSA over saturated fat campaign

Advertisements aimed at reducing consumers' saturated fat intake will soon be launched by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). Initially, the concepts tested by the FSA targeted cheese, whole milk, and butter, and risked damaging not just these products but the whole dairy industry.

Although the dairy manufacturers have been promoting reduced fat versions of its products for over 30 years, the FSA is not satisfied and wants further reductions, particularly in mainstream products.

Dairy UK challenged the scientific basis of considering dairy fat as a risk factor for heart disease by pointing out that dairy products such as cheese do not raise cholesterol levels if eaten in moderation.

We have also joined a Dairy Partnership with the FSA, to examine ways of reducing dairy fats in dairy products. This relationship is deepening government's understanding of the issues facing the dairy sector.

Contact: Ed Komorowski on 020 7486 7244 or [ekomorowski@dairyUK.org](mailto:ekomorowski@dairyUK.org)

