

# Lameness



**Course Date** - 7th July 2021

**Course Tutor** - Owen Atkinson

## About the Speaker

Owen worked in farm practice for over 20 years before establishing Dairy Veterinary Consultancy in 2013. He provides strategic health advice and training to ruminant and dairy agri-businesses, vet practices and dairy farmers throughout UK.

Owen was awarded the RCVS Diploma in Cattle Health and Production in 2013 and is an RCVS Recognised Specialist, a CowSignals® master trainer and a Nuffield Scholar (2010). His interests include lameness; youngstock; building design; rumen health and responsible use of medicines. He is well known for his expertise in bovine lameness; he co-created the AHDB Healthy Feet Programme and authored the lameness section of the latest edition of the popular veterinary textbook, Bovine Surgery and Lameness.

Owen's mission is to improve the lives of cows and the people who care for them.

## Synopsis

**Background: lameness on UK dairy farms today. Are we seeing improvements?**

**What we may be faced with in practice; the individual lame cow:**

- How do I safely inspect a foot?
- What should my basic toolkit contain?
- When should I block it? What's the best block for me?
- When do I advise digit amputation or slaughter?
- How should I tackle a digit amputation?

**How should I approach a case of a lame bull?**

**What we may be faced with in practice; herd issues:**

- How should I respond when a client asks "what should I put in my footbath?"
- My client is concerned about lameness levels. What should I do?
- My client is NOT concerned about lameness levels, and I am! What should I do?

**Next steps.** Developing your expertise and confidence in lameness work.