

# Data Driven Decisions

## Intermediate Courses 2021

A series of 5 online interactive workshops

*Held monthly from May to September 2021*

**Who?** This course is aimed at vets who wish to get to grips with commonly available data and how they can use this to help further engage clients and guide decision making on farm.

**What?** Topics include fertility, lameness, mastitis, beef and nutrition. This course consists of 5 modules with each run over one day. Modules can be booked individually or as a full course and if more than one module is booked it is not compulsory that the same delegate attends all.

Each of the five sessions will be limited to a maximum of 10 delegates, to ensure plenty of opportunity for interaction. No question should be left unanswered and there will be plenty of opportunity to discuss particular questions or topics with both the tutors and other delegates.

**When?** The courses will run on the last Wednesday of each month from May to September.

**Where?** The courses will be run online via the Zoom platform and will involve polls, breakout sessions for group exercises and lots of facilitated discussion.

**Why?** The focus of the workshops is using data to engage clients and take the next steps towards a more proactive preventive approach to tackling problems on farm.

# Mastitis



**Course Date** - 26th May 2021

**Course Tutor** - James Breen

## About the Speaker

James qualified from Bristol in 1998 and entered mixed practice at the Orchard Veterinary Group, Glastonbury. He returned to Langford in 2001 to take up a residency in Farm Animal Medicine, developing his interests in dairy cow medicine and surgery as well as teaching veterinary undergraduate students. He later joined Prof Andrew Bradley and Prof Martin Green on a national dairy cow mastitis research project and has since been involved in the development and roll out of the national AHDB Dairy Mastitis Control Plan and latterly the QuarterPRO scheme.

James remains in dairy practice in Glastonbury, looking after herd health for several clients and now splits the rest of his time between consultancy and advisory work for the Evidence Group and teaching and research at the Nottingham Veterinary School. He holds the RCVS Certificate in Cattle Health and Production (2003) and the RCVS Diploma in Cattle Health and Production (2008) and was awarded a PhD for studies into cow risk factors for clinical mastitis and increased somatic cell count. He is an RCVS Recognised Specialist in Cattle Health and Production.

## Synopsis

The workshop will focus on the available data in relation to mastitis, what it means and how it can be used to help drive decisions on farm. There will be the opportunity to use your own data sets during the workshop. Topics covered during the day will include:

### Using mastitis data to monitor:

- Prevalence and incidence... and benchmarking
- Moving away from reacting towards active monitoring

### Control of new high cell count cows:

- Patterns of infection, what we need to monitor and how (including the Pattern Analysis Tool)
- Using data to aid treatment decisions of high cell count cows at dry off

### Control of the first clinical mastitis case:

- Obtaining and working with clinical mastitis data
- Patterns in clinical mastitis data and the underpinning epidemiology

# Fertility



**Course Date** - 30th June 2021

**Course Tutor** - Chris Hudson

## About the Speaker

Chris qualified from Bristol vet school in 2002, and has worked in vet practice and in academia. He holds the RCVS Certificate and Diploma in Cattle Health and Production, and is an RCVS Recognised Specialist in this area as well as holding a PhD for work on factors associated with fertility in UK dairy herds. He has many years' experience of delivering consultancy to dairy herds across the UK around all aspects of herd health and efficiency; particular interests include measuring and monitoring dairy herd performance. His research interests focus on deriving maximum value from routinely recorded farm data, and using simulation to aid decision making.

## Synopsis

The workshop will focus on how to use reproductive data to help dairy farmers make better decisions around cow management. Real world examples will be used to show how data analysis can be used to drive decision making to optimise reproduction. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own example datasets which can be evaluated during the workshop. Topics covered include:

### **Logistics of fertility data:**

- Readily available data and how to access it
- Aspects of data quality
- Analysis options

### **Key metrics:**

- What they measure and how to interpret them
- How they all fit together
- Using the outputs to help farmers make better decisions

# Beef

**Course Date** - 28th July 2021

**Course Tutor** - Joe Henry



## About the Speaker

Joe graduated from Glasgow in 1998 and soon became predominantly a beef and sheep vet with an interest in disease prevention, health planning, production KPIs and grazing management. As well as working in Northumberland he has also spent time working in New Zealand and Poland. In 2018 he undertook a study tour to large cow-calf operations in the western USA.

Joe now works at Black Sheep Farm Health, a progressive beef and sheep practice in Northumberland. Alongside his clinical role he also provides the veterinary input to the East Northumberland Farmer's Club benchmarking group which started in 2004. He was also chosen to be part of the EBLEX Technical Advisory Group for the two-year project to evaluate KPIs for suckler herds and growing and finishing beef enterprises in England.

Outside of work, Joe also runs a farm with his wife Rachel, including a Luining-based herd of about 100 head.

## Synopsis

This workshop will help delegates get to grips with the key data markers they can use to help get involved in a more proactive approach to suckler herd health. Topics covered during the workshop include:

### **The economics of beef suckler production**

#### **KPIs of production:**

- Identifying and measuring key KPIs and using them to audit farms and focus attention
- Implementing interventions to ensure that KPI targets are achieved

**Putting into practice:** How to be proactive and use health planning and data to drive discussions

# Lameness



**Course Date** - 25th August 2021

**Course Tutor** - Nick Bell

## About the Speaker

Nick has worked on cattle foot health for 18 years, helping develop a national foot health programme for dairy farmers. He is a European specialist in Animal Welfare and Behaviour Management and RCVS recognised specialist. He was a member of the welfare and behaviour group at Bristol University, firstly as a PhD student and then Research Fellow, before moving to the Royal Veterinary College. He is now honorary associate professor at Nottingham University and director of a herd health and welfare consultancy. Nick works internationally dealing with practical herd health and welfare improvement, dairy herd foot health programmes, training and retailer schemes. He sits on the committee running the Register of Mobility Scorers (RoMS), an instructor for RoMS, he is chief auditor for the Cattle Hoofcare Standards Board, and instructor on the UK Level 4 course in professional foot trimming and he delivers training for the AHDB Healthy Feet Programme. He sits on the industry steering group for foot health and he is an advisor to various organisations including ICAR and RSPCA.

## Synopsis

This workshop will help delegates develop the data skills required to monitor and evaluate dairy herds and the success of their lameness prevention strategies. Delegates will be encouraged to bring their own data set so that they can explore these during the workshop. Topics covered will include:

### **Mobility scoring data:**

- Evaluating the severity of a current lameness problem and associated costs
- Using mobility score dynamics to assess treatment success

### **Using lesion records:**

- Using lesion event data to benchmark occurrence
- Identifying lesion patterns and trends in relation to season, days in milk and parity effects
- Interpreting M scores to evaluate the likely contribution of digital dermatitis to lameness prevalence
- Using the analysis outcomes to identify and prioritise the key success factors to focus on to improve lameness

**Software packages:** What's available and what can they do?



# Nutrition

**Course Date** - 29th September 2021

**Course Tutor** - Richard Cooper



## About the Speaker

Richard Cooper qualified from Bristol in 2002 before working in Devon, New Zealand and undertaking a farm animal residency at the University of Bristol. He now works for Map of Ag, providing nutritional consultancy to dairy and beef farmers, and veterinary consultancy to processors and retailers in the food supply chain. He has an interest in epidemiology and cow metabolic health, and currently lives and works out of Exeter in Devon.

## Synopsis

This workshop aims to provide practitioners with knowledge and confidence behind the sometimes bewildering numbers of cattle nutrition. Designed for those that have a basic working, practical knowledge of nutrition but wish to understand more about the common headline metrics and how they can be used to be an advocate of animal health, welfare and productivity.

The course will be flexible to meet specific needs of delegates but will include:

**Data:** What's available and how to use it

**Assessing production data for different dairy systems**

**Feed costings:** What they tell you about the nutritional management approach

**Metabolic disease:** Setting targets and what diagnostics to use

**Silage, feed and ration data:** Common assessment... and what should be being done and sometimes isn't!

# Registration Form

Intermediate Courses 2021

Name:	
Practice:	
Address:	
Tel:	Fax:
Email (this is the one you will use on the day):	

Module	BCVA Member Including VAT	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-BCVA Member Including VAT	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mastitis - 26th May	£246.00		£324.00	
Fertility - 30th June	£246.00		£324.00	
Beef - 28th July	£246.00		£324.00	
Lameness - 25th August	£246.00		£324.00	
Nutrition - 29th September	£246.00		£324.00	
All 5 Modules (10% Discount)	£1,107.00		£1,458.00	

**Total** £

**Method of Payment** - Please send completed forms with remittance (in £ sterling) preferably by BACS to: BCVA, Unit 17, The Glenmore Centre, Waterwells Business Park, Quedgeley, Glos, GL2 2AP. Tel: 01452 725735, Fax: 01452 725780, e-mail: office@cattlevet.co.uk, Web: www.bcva.org.uk

**Details for Payment by BACS - Account name:** BCVA Ltd

**Sort code:** 20-33-83, **Account number:** 13495434 (Please send a remittance advice slip)

**Payment by Credit Card (We do not accept American Express)**

Credit Card: .....

Issue No: ..... Expiry date: ...../..... Start date: ...../.....

CSC (Card Security Code): ..... (last 3 digits on signature strip)

House Name/Number and Postcode of address where card is registered: .....

**Cheques** should be made payable to BCVA Ltd

## Refund Policy for CPD bookings

Cancellations - Please note a cancellation fee will be charged as follows:

- Cancellation made at least 14 days before the event - no charge
- Cancellation made between 7-14 days of the event - 20% of the event fee charged
- Cancellation made within 7 days - event charged in full.

Transfers - Transfers can be accepted without charge if made at least 14 days before the event. Transfers made at least 7 days before the event attract a 10% charge and within the 7 day period before the event, a 30% charge will be made.