

## CLEAR DELEGATION WILL ACCELERATE MOBILITY GAINS



Scan the QR code to download the Stride factsheet 'Taking Responsibility' for more information

Developing and empowering the wider farm team could be the foundation of improving mobility and foot health on many farms according to Matt Dobbs, Chair of the Stride Technical Board.

The 2024 Stride survey revealed that responsibility for managing mobility is often poorly allocated and this can reduce the rate of progress.

*"We know that the incidence of poor mobility and compromised foot health remains stubbornly high in many herds. Our survey clearly showed that an underlying contributory factor is the absence of clear accountability for managing mobility."*

*"We highlighted that a wide range of people were often seen to be responsible for the management of foot health, which can be inefficient. It showed it was not unusual for responsibility for foot health to be allocated to an external contractor who may not be best placed to assess all the factors impacting mobility and ensure the early identification and treatment of affected animals on a daily basis."*

Matt stressed that improving mobility is not an overnight fix and requires a sustained approach to deliver success.

*"Everyone in the team, including on-farm staff and external advisers and specialists, will have responsibilities. But a single person, preferably someone in the on-farm team, must be ultimately responsible for driving improvement."*

Having decided who has overall responsibility for managing mobility, it is vital to have a clear plan that is communicated to all involved with appropriate measurable targets. The plan should be based on an assessment of current performance, identification of the specific causes of poor mobility. It should include the agreed actions to take and the records to be kept.

He underlined the importance of training all members of the team so everyone can make a valuable contribution to improving mobility. Ensure progress is communicated to the farm team and external experts including the foot trimmer, vet, consultant and nutritionist.

Finally, any mobility improvement programme needs an appropriate annual budget, funding the short-term needs and supporting the long-term improvements to improve foot health.

*"Once you addressed these areas, adopting a structured approach of 'Measure: Manage: Monitor' can provide the framework to achieve a sustained improvement in mobility and foot health."*

*"Taking a more structured approach to managing mobility could be the one single action that will initiate a sustained reduction in foot health issues, reducing the negative financial impact on the farm business."*

*"The start point must be clear allocation of responsibilities and support for the person given the opportunity to improve mobility."*



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Following the success of our farm mobility events last year, we are running a series of three events this summer. The practical events will take a fresh look at some of the key areas where improvements can be made in mobility management to help reduce the cost and consequences of compromised foot health.

### WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE

South West Dairy Development Centre, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6SS

### FRIDAY 20 JUNE

Harper Adams University, Newport TF10 8NB

### WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE

Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, PL17 8PB



# TOP TIPS TO IMPROVE MOBILITY AT GRAZING

**Maintaining good mobility and foot health is just as important when cows are grazing, so here are some tips to keep cows sound on their feet this summer.**

- ✓ Monitor the condition of tracks, particularly early in the season, to help reduce the risk of hoof damage due to poor surfaces.
- ✓ Avoid using badly poached gateways. Consider two gateways per paddock in wet conditions.
- ✓ Where cows are held back for buffer feed or housed at night, continue to apply strict hygiene and scraping routines to keep passageways clear.
- ✓ Mobility score cows regularly, ensuring they are walking on a flat surface. Just looking for lame cows at the back of the group while they are walking in can fail to identify mobility score 2 cows that are in the middle of the herd.
- ✓ Put all cows through a footbath at least three times a week, ensuring the solution is at the correct concentration.
- ✓ Continue with routine foot trimming and react quickly at the first signs of compromised mobility, checking feet and trimming/treating as required.
- ✓ Remember that grazed grass is low in minerals and cows need supplementation to optimise production, fertility and foot health. Pay close attention to biotin levels to improve horn strength.



## NEW PARTNERS JOIN STRIDE INITIATIVE

**Three new partners have signed up to the Stride initiative.**

Stride is entirely supported by industry partnerships and was established as a major industry-wide initiative, committed to helping dairy producers reduce the consequences of compromised mobility in their herds to improve productivity and reduce losses.

Stride's founding partners are **Ceva**, **HerdVision**, **IVC Farm Vets**, **Neogen** and **Zinpro**.

The new partners are:

**Hoofcount** specialists in lameness detection and prevention equipment

**NoBACZ** is a wound care company, specialising in sustainable, rapid-setting flexible barrier dressings

**Teemore Engineering** a leader in animal comfort, supplying an extensive range of cubicle mats and mattresses, in addition to cattle handling equipment.

Stride is delighted to welcome these new partners, who complement the existing group perfectly and will extend its knowledge and capabilities on farm.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

To keep in touch with Stride, and upcoming events visit [www.stridemobility.co.uk](http://www.stridemobility.co.uk) or scan the QR code below



### Our Partners



[www.stridemobility.co.uk](http://www.stridemobility.co.uk)