

Time away from the herd will be well spent at this year's Livestock Event

Just the ticket!



www.livestockevent.co.uk

There are many reasons to mark Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 July in your diary and make your way to the Livestock Event. Here are a few new exhibits to whet your appetite and highlight why you should visit this annual event, even during a busy summer.

text **Rachael Porter**



Livestock Event features for 2013

- The latest technical developments including more than 100 new products, of which more than 30 will be launched for the first time at the event.
- Free seminars: more than 50 20-minute interactive seminars will be taking place during both days of the event. The Feed Science Forums, Farm Health Planning Seminars and Business Debates will provide innovative and interactive sessions.
- Foot trimming demonstrations: showcasing the most widely used techniques and supported by independent commentary.
- Forage field: a brand-new feature including soil surgery, guidance on use of software to make the most from pasture, weed control, how to grow home grown protein feeds and best advice on baling and wrapping silage.
- Mixer wagon demonstrations: the opportunity to see how six of the leading makes handle the same dairy and beef rations. There will also be 'refreshers' on the correct order to load ingredients and the optimum mixing times for each model so the ration is best presented to stock and feed intake is maximised.
- Careers in agriculture: a new series of presentations to help guide students towards the wide range of employment opportunities available in this industry.
- Machinery hall: the latest machinery and equipment, including two of the UK's major tractor manufacturers, together with up to 40 companies supplying attachments as well as mounted and trailed equipment.
- The National Dairy Show: a new feature organised by RABDF with seven different cattle breeds and a comprehensive range of classes.

This year's Livestock Event will feature more than 450 exhibitors – with 98% offering products or services for producers. These will bring together the latest technical and financial information and advice to help you to make more timely and effective business decisions. And all this is in one place across two days – it couldn't be more worthwhile time spent away from the farm, even in the middle of busiest summer management schedule.

RABDF chairman Ian Macalpine agrees and says that the Livestock Event, which is being held at the NEC in Birmingham, should be one of those days out that producers make time for. "It's an opportunity to talk to the supply trade in one place, at one time. For me it's a chance to place orders, pick up the best advice possible to get our farming business back on track after one of the most challenging 12 months, and to start planning ahead for next year," he says.

Business link

"The rescheduled event has a completely different offering to the other major UK agricultural shows and 100% of the Livestock Event's stands are linked to the business of livestock farming," he adds.

"The event also comes with the added bonus of being a good day away from the farm and it offers a great atmosphere to catch up with friends and industry acquaintances." Mr Macalpine also believes that the rescheduled event will enable producers to make more timely decisions this year.

"I'm among thousands of livestock

Get more from your forage

Forage Field will feature six different zones: a soil surgery, advice on plate metering, guidance on use of software to make the most from pasture, weed control, how to grow home grown protein feeds, and the best advice when it comes to baling and wrapping silage. The feature will be located within the Feeds and Forage Zone and is being jointly organised by the British Grassland Society and the RABDF. Additional technical support will be provided by British Seed Houses, DairyCo, Dow Agrosciences, GrowHow, Limagrain and Volac. Take the opportunities to get to the bottom of any of your forage niggles in one – or several – of the following zones:

- **Zone 1: The soil surgery**

This will demonstrate the different types of soil and the issues that come with each type. Soil spits of different soil types will be on the table to show that farmers can dig a spit themselves and take a look for signs of poor soil quality. For example signs of compaction, low worm number and poor drainage.

- **Zone 2: Plate metering technique area**

Producers will be required to plate meter the four 'fields' and record the measurements to input at Zone 3. The area will consist of four raised beds that have been filled in with rolled out beds of grass at differing heights to be labelled as different fields.

- **Zone 3: Farming software tutorial**

Producers to this 'zone' will be given a short lesson on the basics of using farming software. They will be able to use a system to produce a feed wedge, which will help in managing their feed supply. The zone will also help producers with software buying decisions and, for those who already own a system, it will give them a better understanding of what's available if they're looking to up grade.



- **Zone 4: Feed, weed and disease**

Producers here will be able to discuss the importance of fertiliser application to maximise pasture potential, stay on top of weeds and diseases to grow the best quality grass possible.

- **Zone 5: Alternative home grown feeds**

This zone will be used to demonstrate how to grow beans and winter forage as alternatives to buying in feed. The interactive portion of this zone will be showing producers the plants and technical information so they can get an idea of what other options are out there.

- **Zone 6: Silage wrapping**

A demonstration of best practice in making and preserving silage using big round bales.

producers facing the aftermath of an indisputably tough year and I am keen to pick up as much early advice as I can to start planning my winter feeding, housing and general management.

"With Livestock 2013 being held in July, I will have the chance to be far better prepared than usual, at a time when we are making major decisions. Checking out and placing orders for feed ingredients and semen will be sorted out early, as will orders for any new kit or housing equipment.

"And I can be confident it will be delivered and installed before the autumn."

"Planning ahead and buying forward can help enormously with the profitability of any farming business and with the event now in July this presents a great opportunity to get ahead of the game when it comes to making purchasing decisions." |

