

TECHNOLOGY THAT'S SIMPLE TO OPERATE

John and Matt Shaw milk 90 Holstein Friesians near Carlisle in Cumbria. Keenan customers for many years, a new Mech-fiber® 360 fitted with PACE® Connect technology was bought in December 2013. Supported by the inTouch Monitoring & Support team, significant improvements have been achieved during their 90 day trial period.

"We were having problems with the dry cows as they were taking over 4 weeks to "get going" after calving. Everything from second calvers was treated as a precaution with calcium due to a high incidence of sub-clinical acidosis" says John. Keenan inTouch advised us to add more straw to the ration, and "it's been an eye-opener." "The results speak for themselves," he adds "as problems with milk fever have completely disappeared, and the cows are now producing over 50 litres of milk immediately after calving."

Originally the cows were fed to yield in-parlour up to a maximum of 8kg of cake per day. Keenan's inTouch team work closely with John and Matt to help them achieve better results, and they advised feeding a flat rate of 2kg of cake for the first 200 days of lactation.

FARM FACTS

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| Location | Carlisle |
| No. of cows | 90 |
| Yield (kgs) | 9,600 |
| Kg cake/kg milk | 0.22 |
| Home-grown forages | 88% |

"We were including 68% home-grown forage in the diet, and we've gradually increased this during our 90 day trial period to a staggering 88%" says Matt. The net result here is a reduction of the ration cost by 77pence down to £2.99 per day.

"Milk yields have increased by almost 4 litres per day" says John "as well as the milk protein, which has increased by 0.11%. This is important to us as we supply our milk to Arla and are paid on milk quality." Days in milk for the herd have actually increased on average by 18 days and Matt says "I'm sure that milk yield has increased due to feeding a more chemically, physically and consistently balanced ration."

Often new technology can be seen difficult and time consuming, but John finds the PACE® Connect technology very simple to operate. "I actually feel like a bit of a fool, as I was scared of the new technology when the machine arrived in the yard."

"The cost savings and improvements in having the correct rations are crucial" adds Matt. "Currently we have five rations programmed into the system, and as animal numbers change it's simple to alter these, as PACE® Connect automatically updates and changes the ration"

In conclusion, John says "Personally PACE® Connect has re-invigorated my interest in the cows, and it's fascinating to see what can be achieved by using this technology."

"Our cows just look better and brighter, they are doing really well, and who knows where we can go in the future as we have achieved all these improvements within just 90 days?"



Keenan
True Technology