

Limping up to mating?

- ***Kill the pain to help get lame cows back on their feet faster***

Here's a question: What do your cows' hooves and their ovaries have in common?

The answer lies in your in-calf rate. Why? Because cows lame at mating can take 7-18 days longer than their herd mates to conceive.

That link between lameness and poor reproduction is just one of the many reasons no-one wants to see any cows limping during the approach to mating, or any other time for that matter.

But if they are limping, there's increasing evidence that prompt pain relief can make a big difference.

It's not a magic fix – lameness is a complex, challenging condition typically caused by environmental and management factors, and these have to be addressed to achieve lasting improvement.

One of the very first effects of lameness in dairy cows, however, is reduced feed intake, often before you can actually see something is wrong.

That's because bruised, damaged, overgrown or abscessed hooves hurt to walk on, and the cow that can't walk normally often won't graze normally either.

Adding proven pain killers like KetoMax 15% or Melovem 30 to the lame cow kit means you can quickly reduce pain and inflammation as you examine and treat injured hooves.

This is now standard practice for farmers who want to get lame cows walking normally again – pain free - as quickly as possible.

They recognise that every day of reduced feed intake takes an immediate toll on milk yield, BCS, animal welfare and their own morale, especially in spring.

Of course they have a vested interest in getting the best possible result from any treatment, whether it's a simple hoof trim, application of a temporary block to support damaged claws, or veterinary intervention.

Remember it can take weeks for a cow to recover from even moderate lameness. During that time, she can easily lose 0.5 BCS.

So along with the hoof knife, trimmers, leg rope, blocks and other tools in your lame cow kit this spring, add a proven pain relief treatment. You'll be glad you did.