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The
Calf Action
 CONFERENCE
 2026





Event Programme

09:30 – 10:00

Arrival & Registration

Teas, coffees and networking

10:00 – 10:30

Welcome & Opening

Overview of the Calf Action Conference and the GB Calf Strategy – Right Start pillar

10:30 – 10:45

TB Update

Current TB position and its impact on calf health and welfare

10:45 – 12:45

Workshop Sessions (2 Rotations)

- Calf Housing, Health & Technology
- Skills & Training for Calf Rearing
 - Calf Health Fundamentals

12:45 – 13:45

Lunch & Networking

Visit exhibitor stands

13:45 – 14:45

Final Workshop Rotation

14:45 – 15:30

Panel Discussion

Rearing All Calves with Care and Purpose

15:30 – 16:00

Teas, Coffees & Networking

16:00

Close





About us:

Innovation for Agriculture (IfA)

Innovation for Agriculture (IfA) is an independent charity working to bridge the gap between research and practical farming. It connects farmers, researchers and industry to support the adoption of innovative, evidence-based solutions that improve farm productivity, sustainability and animal health. Through projects such as the Calf Action Network, IfA helps ensure that research is translated into practical, on-farm impact.



Calf Action Network (CAN)

The Calf Action Network (CAN) is a collaborative initiative bringing together farmers, vets, researchers and industry to improve calf health, welfare and management across the UK. Through practical events, applied research and knowledge sharing, CAN focuses on delivering real, on-farm solutions. CAN leads the Right Start pillar of the GB Calf Strategy, aiming to ensure every calf is reared with care and purpose.





Holly Shearman

Holly Shearman is Head of Livestock at Innovation for Agriculture, leading projects that focus on improving livestock health, welfare and productivity through collaboration and knowledge exchange. She works closely with farmers, vets and industry partners to deliver practical solutions and drive positive change across the sector.

Passionate about sustainable, high health and welfare livestock production, Holly is committed to supporting farmers on the journey to net zero and helping educate the public on the importance of locally produced, high-welfare food.



Catherine Carlton

Catherine Carlton is Livestock Projects Assistant at Innovation for Agriculture, supporting the delivery of projects such as the Calf Action Network. Her work focuses on coordinating events, engaging with industry stakeholders and helping translate research into practical outcomes on farm.



Natasha Smith

Natasha Smith is Communications Manager at Innovation for Agriculture, responsible for sharing updates on IfA projects and activities through newsletters and social media. She holds an MSc in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security and brings four years' experience in agricultural communications and PR. Her role focuses on supporting knowledge exchange and ensuring key messages reach farmers, industry and wider audiences.





Speakers

Emily Linton

Emily Linton is a farm animal veterinary surgeon with 20 years' experience, working at Castle Vets, an independent practice in Cornwall. A member of CAN since its inception, she is passionate about calf health and welfare and committed to evidence-based practice.

Alongside her clinical work with farmers across a wide range of systems, Emily has experience in the sustainable farming NGO sector, giving her insight into the wider policy and industry context. She is Chair of the Right Start pillar of the GB Calf Strategy, focusing on consistent, evidence-based early-life management and effective farmer engagement.



Sarah Tomlinson

Sarah Tomlinson is a leading veterinary expert in bovine health, with extensive experience in TB policy, disease control and herd health management. She plays a key role in shaping national approaches to TB and works closely with industry to support practical, on-farm solutions.

At the conference, Sarah will provide an update on TB and what it means for calf health, management and the wider industry.





Kat Baxter-Smith BVetMed CertAVP(EM) MRCVS

Kat graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London in 2010, she worked in mixed practices (equine and farm animal) in the UK for 7 years and completed an advanced certificate in large animal and equine internal medicine. She has been with MSD for 7 years, firstly as a field veterinary adviser and now as Sector Veterinary Adviser for Sheep and Beef. Her main field of interest is cattle youngstock health and she has published several papers in this area. Recently she has been focussing on respiratory health, specifically thoracic ultrasound in calves which she has pioneered as a diagnostic technique in the UK.



Chloe Rodriguez

Chloe has a background in Bioveterinary Science from Harper Adams University and she currently head up the Animal Welfare team at Galebreaker. Her work focuses on calf management and youngstock welfare, with a particular emphasis on the calf housing environment. Over the past few years, she has developed a keen interest in how housing design, ventilation, and where the calf is placed can influence health, behaviour, and long-term performance. She is passionate about supporting producers with practical, evidence-based solutions that improve calf welfare and performance.





Bianca Theeruth

Bianca Theeruth is a Ruminant Technology Application Specialist with Cargill Animal Nutrition and Health, focusing on translating nutrition science, innovation and technology into practical, evidence-based solutions for calf and heifer management on farm. She holds degrees in Animal Science and Animal Nutrition from the University of KwaZulu Natal and the University of Edinburgh and has held technical and commercial nutrition roles across the UK animal feed sector.



Dr. Ryan Davies

Dr. Ryan Davies graduated with honors in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery from The University of Edinburgh in 2002, completing his dissertation on Dry Cow Nutrition. With over 20 years in farm animal practice, he founded Veterinary Technical Consulting Ltd., specialising in preventative medicine and antibiotic reduction on-farm. He consults for the Saskatoon Colostrum Company Ltd. (SCCL) and was a keynote speaker at the 2024 World Buiatrics Congress. In 2025, he published research on transition milk feeding in pasture-based herds in the Journal of Dairy Science.





Ann Coombes

Ann has developed a wealth of experience in the dairy sector and has been part of the ForFarmers specialist youngstock team since 2014. As Youngstock Product Manager, Ann focuses on developing products and concepts to help dairy producers improve the success and profitability of youngstock rearing.



Tonia Simms

Tonia worked as a first opinion production animal vet for 18 years with a primary goal to work alongside clients to improve the resilience and sustainability of their businesses: breeding robust animals that were fit for purpose and healthy, with low losses and maximised profitability for the farm. She has recently moved out of clinical practice to work in the pharmaceutical industry, however she maintains the same ethos: to advise on how we can breed and manage animals which grow and produce efficiently, do not require imprudent use of antimicrobials and are carbon efficient. Her main focus area is beef animals, both those originating from dairy and suckler herds. There are huge gains to be made in this industry with regards to carbon efficiency, particularly as it has come under high scrutiny from the media. UK farming needs all the help it can get at the moment and she wants to support farmers for us all to be here in 20 years' time.





Tim Potter BVetMed MBA PhD CMgr MCMi MRCVS FRASE

Tim qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in 2003 and then stayed on to complete a residency in Dairy Herd Medicine and Surgery. Following this he completed a PhD examining how to optimise the use of antimicrobials to treat calf pneumonia. After his PhD Tim worked in farm animal practice focusing primarily on youngstock management as well as vet and farmer education. In 2025 he joined Zoetis as a National Veterinary Manager looking after their ruminant POM-V portfolio. Tim has a particular interest in calf health.



Neave Anderson

Neave is Head of Agri-Tech & Innovation at Hartpury, where she leads the Digital Innovation Farm and works with a wide range of industry partners. With a background in applied agricultural technology, Neave has delivered a range of agri-tech initiatives focused on improving efficiency, animal health and farm performance. Neave is passionate about using data and innovation to support informed decision-making, with a strong focus on developing practical strategies that can be implemented on commercial farms.





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AHDB are the main sponsor of the conference, supporting delivery of the GB Calf Strategy and driving improvements in calf health, welfare and productivity across the UK.



ForFarmers support farmers with practical nutrition solutions, helping improve calf growth, health and on-farm performance through consistent feeding strategies.



Galebreaker provide innovative housing solutions designed to improve calf environments, supporting ventilation, comfort and overall calf welfare.



MSD Animal Health focus on improving animal health and productivity through science-led solutions, with a strong emphasis on disease prevention and herd health.



SCCL specialise in colostrum-based products, combining science, nature and care to support strong calf immunity and give calves the best possible start.



Zoetis are a global animal health company supporting farmers with products and expertise to improve disease management, welfare and productivity on farm.





Event Sponsors

Event Exhibitors



Advanced Ruminant Nutrition provide specialist feed additives and nutritional solutions to support calf health, growth and early rumen development.



Bonanza Calf Nutrition focus on high-quality milk replacers and feeding programmes designed to maximise calf performance and consistency on farm.



Calf to Cow Consultancy offer independent advice and training to improve calf rearing systems, helping farmers achieve better health, growth and lifetime performance.



Cargill deliver science-led nutrition solutions, supporting efficient calf growth, feed efficiency and overall herd productivity.



Feed for Growth provide tailored feeding strategies and products aimed at improving calf growth rates and long-term performance.





Progiene (Rumenco Ltd) offer hygiene and biosecurity solutions to help reduce disease risk and improve calf health outcomes on farm.



Providing Evidence-Based Livestock Solutions

Kingshay provide data, benchmarking and technical insight to support informed decision-making and improved calf rearing performance.

