

May 2026

First Year Signatory Progress Report

The GB Dairy Cow Lameness Manifesto

Introduction

January 2025 marked the launch of the GB Dairy Cow Lameness Manifesto - an ambitious, industry-wide commitment to **incrementally reduce lameness prevalence** from the current is estimated to be 30% to below 5% in at least 95% of British dairy herds by 2044.

One year on, we are pleased to report substantial progress and growing momentum across our signatory base.

This report celebrates the achievements of our signatories during the first year and highlights the diverse range of activities being undertaken across the dairy supply chain. The organisations featured here responded to our request for progress updates, providing insight into their contributions toward our shared objective. We acknowledge that many other

signatories may also be making significant progress that we have yet to capture, and we encourage all signatories to share their achievements so we can continue to showcase the breadth of industry commitment.

The Manifesto represents a unique collaborative model, bringing together 27 organisations, from milk processors and technology companies to veterinary practices, professional bodies, universities, and farmer support organisations. Each signatory has publicly committed to specific actions they are best positioned to deliver, creating distributed responsibility for achieving the ambitious targets of the Manifesto. The first interim milestone - reducing national prevalence to below 20% by 2028 - requires sustained effort from all stakeholders. This report demonstrates that effort is well underway.

Proof point 1

Milk Processors and Retailers

Market signals from dairy processors are crucial in driving on-farm change. Our signatory processors and retailers are demonstrating how their leadership can influence hundreds of supplier farms and shape industry priorities.



Müller

As the UK's second-largest milk processor, Müller's engagement sends a powerful market signal about the commercial importance of foot health. They have committed to championing Actions 3, 4, and 5 (Strategy One: Include all dairy herds) - focusing on encouraging all farms to record and track their lameness prevalence, regardless of starting point, and facilitating extra support for those farms that need it most. Their support for Action 16 (Strategy Three: peer-to-peer knowledge exchange) recognises that farmers often learn most effectively from other farmers who have successfully tackled similar challenges.

Looking ahead, Müller plan to implement Action 8 (Strategy Two: ensuring plans are in place on supplier farms) as their farmer programme develops - working through their milk purchaser role to promote widespread use of the Healthy Feet Programme or Healthy Feet Lite. This evolution from supporting recording and benchmarking toward actively facilitating structured improvement programmes represents exactly the kind of processor leadership the Manifesto envisages.

As their programme matures, Müller's scale means their actions will impact hundreds of supplier farms, demonstrating how processor engagement can drive change at landscape level.

Proof point 2

Infrastructure, Innovation and Technology

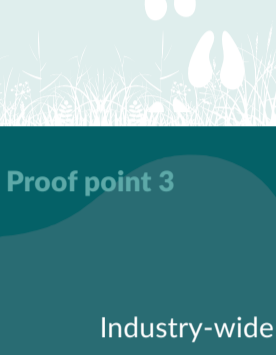
Physical infrastructure - from floor surfaces to housing design - creates the environment in which cows live and work. New technologies such as automated lameness detection represent a significant opportunity to overcome time and labour barriers to frequent mobility scoring. Signatories in this sector are working to make welfare-enhancing solutions more accessible and evidence-based.



AgriStride

AgriStride by Wolfenden Concrete is an example of a manufacturing company which is part of the vital supply chain supporting infrastructure improvements to dairy farms. Their high welfare slats exemplify how infrastructure innovation can support foot health: creating surfaces that reduce concussive and shearing forces on hooves while maintaining clean, dry conditions.

The company has chosen to focus on Action 11 (Strategy Three: current best practice in housing, flooring, cubicle comfort, space allowances, floor surfaces, and cow tracks) as it aligns perfectly with their business, but their commitment extends beyond simply selling products. They are actively lobbying for their welfare-enhancing, lameness prevention flooring products to be included in grant funding schemes, making them more accessible to farmers. They are also working to secure funding for research to carry out technical validation of their slatted covers for hoof health and lameness prevention. While they can already demonstrate farmer validation with reports of improved cow confidence and comfort, robust research evidence will strengthen the case for wider adoption. This investment in evidence generation benefits the entire industry, not just their business.



CattleEye (GEA)

CattleEye is another AI-based video system for automated lameness detection. Short video clips of cows walking (taken from above) are uploaded to the cloud, and machine learning enables detection of early signs of lameness. Cow IDs are flagged to farmers for action, whilst data helps track changes to herd mobility over time and individual cow status.

CattleEye has continued investment in independent, high-quality scientific studies in collaboration with the University of Liverpool on system validation and development of implementation protocols (Action 13: developing lameness detection technologies). They have installed systems across GB to support farmers in easier detection of cows needing inspection (Actions 3 and 4: recording prevalence and tracking progress).

Importantly, CattleEye has completed relevant validation to meet the Dairy Cow Mobility Steering Group guidelines* for automated scoring and collaborated with milk buying organisations to allow CattleEye scores to be utilised alongside RoMS scores for welfare quality assurance (Action 5: facilitating support through milk purchasers). They are supporting the UK Hoof Health Registry through data supply and industry partnership (Action 12: harnessing genetic gain), and have recruited an Associate at the University of Liverpool via the Knowledge Transfer Partnership scheme to support implementation of good hoof health practices on farm.

* In 2025, the Dairy Cow Mobility Steering Group published its position statement for automated lameness detection systems to ensure that this fast-moving area is able to meet the industry's requirements for consistency and accuracy with the well established AHDB mobility scoring methodology, and RoMS accredited scorers.



Agsenz (HerdVision)

Agsenz, makers of HerdVision, are amongst the pioneers of the technological frontier of lameness detection, directly supporting Action 13 (Strategy Three: develop lameness detection technologies and bring to market). Their system addresses one of the most significant practical barriers to lameness reduction which is the time and labour required for frequent manual mobility scoring.

HerdVision uses advanced imaging and analysis to identify early mobility changes, often 2-3 weeks before changes become visible to the human eye. This technology could allow farmers to prioritise cows for examination and hoof trimming before lameness becomes severe. The system's ability to track response to treatment provides valuable feedback loops, helping farmers and their advisors understand what interventions are most effective.

Over the past year, Agsenz has supported farmer meetings to build understanding and confidence in the technology, developed increasingly user-focused applications in response to farmer feedback, and played a key role in Stride, which is an industry-led initiative providing practical lameness reduction solutions. Their engagement demonstrates commitment to being part of a coordinated industry effort rather than simply promoting technology in isolation.

Proof point 3

Industry Bodies, Coordination and Research

Industry-wide initiatives require coordination, communication, and support infrastructure. AHDB plays this critical enabling role while also supporting practical resources that facilitate on-farm implementation. Universities contribute through their dual roles of research and education.



AHDB

The Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) plays a critical coordination and support role that enables much of the Manifesto's progress. They provide secretariat support to the Dairy Cow Mobility Steering Group, manage ongoing communications with signatories, and coordinate this progress reporting - essential infrastructure that keeps the initiative moving forward.

Their substantive work supports multiple actions. They are actively working to increase awareness of the Healthy Feet Programme among farmers and exploring options to expand the number of vets undertaking Mobility Mentor training (Action 7: Strategy Two). A series of free online webinars is planned for the coming year, featuring discussions of how the programme works and testimonials from dairy farmers who have benefited from it.

Beyond this, AHDB has developed a practical mobile app to simplify on-farm lameness recording, currently in testing with farmers and vets (Action 3: Strategy One). If successful, this app will address a significant practical barrier, making it easier for farms to record mobility data consistently and share it with their vet and hoof trimmer.

They continue to maintain and update their extensive library of freely accessible online resources providing information on housing, mobility scoring, identification and treatment of different causes of lameness, and wider management practices (Action 11: Strategy Three). Working with veterinary experts, they regularly review these resources to ensure they reflect latest thinking.

AHDB has also collaborated with universities to support research grant applications directed at lameness reduction, recognising that innovation and evidence generation must continue alongside implementation of existing knowledge.



The University of Nottingham

The Ruminant Population Health Group at the University of Nottingham is one of the strategic research areas within the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. With around 30 research-active members including several European veterinary diplomates and RCVS specialists, the group contributes to the Manifesto primarily through research and education.

Research conducted within the group contributes toward improving lameness at individual herd level and reducing national prevalence (Actions 1 and 2: including all herds). Knowledge generated is integrated into teaching within the 5-year undergraduate programme. Key research outputs supporting the Manifesto include evidence on best-practice treatment approaches to claw horn lesions, national lameness prevalence estimates, the importance of preventing heifer lameness, risk factors for lameness, impacts of anti-inflammatory medication (NSAID) use, and development of biomarkers for improved diagnostics (Actions 11 and 13).

Teaching is delivered to approximately 300 students per year across two cohorts, including 64 students undertaking a Farm track rotation. Year 1-4 teaching covers dairy cattle lameness including practical skills (mobility scoring and hoof trimming) and awareness of national initiatives such as the GB Lameness Manifesto and Healthy Feet Programme (Actions 7 and 10). Year 5 teaching ensures students achieve Day 1 Competencies required by all veterinary graduates, with advanced students gaining experience in lameness data analytics (Action 18: using annual vet visits to review progress).

Over the two past years, the group has also been involved in extensive knowledge exchange, delivering talks and workshops at national and international conferences, farmer and industry meetings - including events at BCVA, CHCSB, Total Dairy, and international conferences.

Proof point 4

Professional Standards and Training Organisations

Maintaining high professional standards for hoof trimmers and ensuring effective knowledge transfer through training is fundamental to industry-wide improvement. CHCSB and consultancy partnerships like Herd Health Consultancy and Map of Ag deliver training at scale while raising the bar for professional competency. The Register of Mobility Scorers (RoMS) ensures standardised, independent mobility scoring becomes widely accessible.



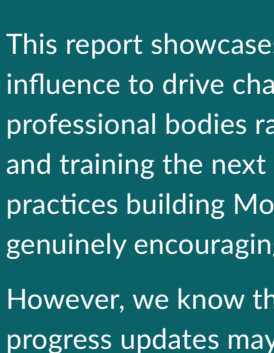
Cattle Hoof Care Standards Board (CHCSB)

The Cattle Hoof Care Standards Board plays a crucial role in raising and accrediting professional standards, directly supporting Action 14 (Strategy Three: use only trained and accredited professional foot trimmers). Over the past year, they have delivered multiple SRUC Level 4 Professional Bovine Hoof Trimming courses, the recognised qualification for professional trimmers in the UK. These courses emphasise evidence-based approaches and the importance of collaboration between trimmers, mobility scorers, and veterinary professionals, helping to break down traditional silos.

CHCSB has also delivered Hoof Trimming Instructor training, qualifying both professional hoof trimmers and veterinary surgeons to become either CHCSB Trimmer Instructors or BCVA Foot Health Trainers (Action 16: peer-to-peer knowledge exchange, and Action 15: ensuring trained personnel for emergency hoof care). This "train the trainer" approach multiplies impact, enabling newly qualified instructors to share knowledge with the teams they work with.

Their commitment to quality assurance is demonstrated through standard-setting days and unannounced audits of qualified members. These audits aren't punitive but developmental, providing opportunities for feedback, discussion, and continuous improvement.

Beyond direct training delivery, CHCSB has engaged proactively with DEFRA regarding Veterinary Surgeons Act reform, ensuring that any regulatory changes support rather than hinder the promotion of best evidence-based practice and the use of appropriately qualified professional hoof trimmers.



Herd Health Consultancy and Map of Ag

This consultancy partnership has delivered impressive scale and breadth of impact over the past year. They have conducted over 20 Healthy Feet Programme or Healthy Feet Lite visits (Action 7: Strategy Two), translating the programme's principles into practical, farm-specific action plans. The deliberately inclusive approach of the Programme works with farms across the full performance spectrum (Actions 1 and 2: Strategy One) - from those with excellent mobility seeking marginal gains to those facing significant challenges.

Training delivery has been extensive. They have run over 10 RoMS-approved mobility scoring courses across the UK and internationally (Action 17: Strategy Four), creating a new cohort of qualified scorers. Their consultant-delivered RoMS herd mobility scores - approximately 100 over the past year - ensure farms receive high-quality baseline assessments. Additionally, they have provided over 30 days of bespoke hoof trimming training to farm teams (Action 15: ensuring trained personnel for emergency hoof care).

Working with processors and industry bodies, they have supported the development of resources and programmes benefiting over 700 farms (Action 5: facilitating extra support for farms through milk purchasers). Their contribution to formal training programmes including SRUC Level 4 and LANTRA courses ensures knowledge transfer happens at scale.

Herd Health Consultancy and Map of Ag has also embraced emerging technologies, working with farms to integrate automated footbaths and automated lameness detection systems (Action 13: developing and implementing lameness detection technologies).



RoMS (Register of Mobility Scorers)

RoMS is an independent, self-regulatory body which encourages widespread use of standardised, independent mobility scoring conducted by trained and accredited scorers on UK dairy farms. Their chosen actions span Strategy 1 (Actions 1, 3, and 4), Strategy 2 (Action 10), and Strategy 4 (Actions 17 and 19).

As of January 2026, RoMS has 897 registered scorers, providing a valuable resource of trained and independent mobility scorers to deliver mobility scoring on GB dairy farms. During 2025, 35 RoMS courses were delivered by RoMS-approved trainers, including training on principles relating to Actions 1-4 and Strategy 10.

In 2025, RoMS launched a free online calibration tool for anyone wanting to practice or calibrate their scoring, helping all farmers and farm advisors access mobility scoring calibration to standardise scoring across the industry. In February 2026, a new online theory course was launched to standardise theory training aspects, with the aim of improving RoMS training standards by increasing time available on practical courses to focus on practical aspects of mobility scoring training. To become RoMS registered, there are now three phases: Foundation Training (online theory), Practical Training (practical course), and Calibration Training (calibration test).

In March 2026, a RoMS trainer day will be held to share principles of best practice in relation to training and mobility scoring, with all trainers attending undergoing a calibration scoring session - ensuring continued high standards across the trainer network.

Proof point 4

Veterinary Practice Leadership

Responses have perhaps been especially strong from the veterinary community. The Manifesto includes signatories from three major groups of veterinary practices, XLVets, VetPartners, and IVC Evidensia Farm Vets. Some individual practices have chosen to be signatories in their own right. Farm veterinary practitioners are uniquely positioned to facilitate change through their advisory relationships with farmers, technical expertise, and involvement in strategic herd health planning. Here we highlight some of the activities reported to us by veterinary signatories.

Torch Farm Vets

Torch Farm Vets have established comprehensive lameness management support services. Their RoMS-accredited mobility scoring service provides independent assessments with customised reports (Actions 3 and 17: recording whole herd prevalence and conducting independent mobility scoring). Farmer information courses help farm teams understand mobility scoring data, while their quarterly newsletter actively promotes the Healthy Feet Programme (Action 7: using the Healthy Feet Programme).

"Lameness Champion" group meetings facilitate peer-to-peer learning (Action 16), proving highly effective in maintaining motivation and disseminating practical solutions. The practice incorporates discussion of lameness-resistant traits into genomic testing consultations (Action 12: harnessing genetic gain), while their partnership with Total Hoof Care professional foot trimmers ensures appropriately qualified trimming services (Action 14).

Regular Foot First Aid courses, run 2-3 times per year, combine theory with practical hands-on training in emergency trimming techniques (Action 15: ensuring trained personnel for emergency hoof care). Looking ahead, they are developing a "footbath fitness test" to engage farms where digital dermatitis is the primary challenge, demonstrating commitment to tailoring interventions (Action 11: current best practice).

Friars Moor Livestock Health

Friars Moor has developed an in-house mobility scoring app enabling sophisticated data analysis and trend tracking (Action 3: recording and collating data). Their deliberately inclusive service delivery model works with the full spectrum of farms (Actions 1 and 2: including all herds regardless of starting point), using RoMS-accredited personnel to deliver mobility scores.

Multiple vets have completed or are progressing through Mobility Mentor training, ensuring capacity to deliver the Healthy Feet Programme at scale (Action 7). Where the full programme isn't appropriate, they incorporate individual elements, emphasising the four success factors (Action 9).

Their "Foot Fetish Group" meetings bring producers together for peer-to-peer learning, farm walks, and expert presentations (Action 16). LANTRA-accredited First Aid for Feet courses empower farmers to handle emergency situations (Action 15). The practice contributes extensively to professional development beyond their client base, including SRUC Level 4 courses, CPD for trimmers, LANTRA Hoof Trimming Instructor training, and CHCSB activities (Actions 14 and 16). They work closely with milk purchasers to address contract compliance and provide additional support where needed (Action 5).

Synergy Farm Health

Synergy Farm Health began with internal clinical clubs introducing the Manifesto and UK Hoof Health Registry to their team (Action 12: submitting data for genetic evaluation). This foundation-building translated into well-attended client meetings with over 50 farmers participating (Action 16: peer-to-peer knowledge exchange), resulting in tangible outcomes: new foot-trimming clients, increased visit frequency, Healthy Feet Programme bookings, and sign-ups for training courses (Actions 7 and 15).

They have embraced technological innovation, working with VetVision AI and CattleEye on client farms (Action 13: developing lameness detection technologies). The practice continues growing their team of professionally accredited foot trimmers and RoMS-accredited scorers (Action 14). Their vet tech manager represented England in the World Hoof Trimming Cup 2025 - bringing international recognition to British hoof care standards.

Annual herd health visits routinely include mobility improvement review and prevalence recording (Action 18: using annual vet visits to review progress), embedding foot health into regular farm health planning rather than treating it as optional extra.

VetPartners

VetPartners has taken a coordinated, strategic approach befitting their scale as one of the UK's three largest farm veterinary groups. During 2025, they conducted a comprehensive survey of their 82-member mobility clinical interest group to map Mobility Mentor capacity and identify gaps. This strategic planning ensures every practice either has in-house capability or knows where to access it within the network (Action 7: using the Healthy Feet Programme delivered by trained Mobility Mentors).

Their "Project Feet" research into pain perception and NSAID use addresses a critical gap, as many farms still under-utilise anti-inflammatory medication despite strong evidence for its benefits. The research has been translated into practical resources for vets and farmers (Action 11: using current best practice including NSAIDs). Following publication, VetPartners held internal meetings exploring variation in NSAID use across practices, barriers to optimal use, and strategies to overcome them - a sophisticated approach to practice improvement.

Looking forward

This report showcases remarkable diversity of effort and achievement. From processors using their market influence to drive change, to technology companies bringing automated detection systems to market, to professional bodies raising trimming standards through training and audits, to universities generating evidence and training the next generation of vets, to RoMS expanding the pool of qualified scorers, to veterinary practices building Mobility Mentor capacity and running farmer discussion groups, the breadth of activity is genuinely encouraging.

However, we know this report captures only part of the story. Many signatories who have not yet submitted progress updates may well be making significant contributions that deserve celebration and sharing. We strongly encourage all signatories to document and report their activities.

Sharing your progress:

- Demonstrates to farmers and the wider industry that this is a genuine, active commitment backed by real action
- Provides ideas and inspiration to other signatories about what's possible
- Creates positive recognition for your organisation's efforts
- Helps identify opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange
- Strengthens the collective case for policy and funding support

We invite all current signatories to submit progress updates for inclusion in future annual reports.

For those organisations not yet signed up, we extend an invitation to join this industry-leading initiative. Whether you are a veterinary practice, technology provider, processor, retailer, professional body, university, consultancy, breeding organisation, or supplier to the dairy industry, if you can contribute to reducing lameness prevalence in British dairy herds, there is a place for you in the Manifesto.

Signing up involves:

- Reviewing the 21 actions across the four strategies
- Selecting those actions you are positioned to support
- Publicly committing to deliver them
- Reporting progress annually

The benefits of participation include:

- Being part of a collaborative industry initiative addressing the highest priority cattle health issue
- Positive recognition for your organisation's commitment to welfare and sustainability
- Access to a network of like-minded organisations for knowledge sharing
- Contribution to achieving ambitious but achievable targets that will transform the industry

The first interim milestone - reducing national prevalence to below 20% by 2028 - is just over two years away. Achieving it will require accelerated uptake of mobility scoring, wider implementation of the Healthy Feet Programme, increased professionalism of foot trimming capacity, better integration of foot health into breeding decisions, infrastructure improvements across many farms, and stronger market signals from processors and retailers.

The foundation is being laid. The capability is being built. The momentum is growing. But we need every part of the industry engaged to achieve transformation at the scale and pace required.

Sign up as a signatory

To become a signatory or submit a progress update, please visit the Lameness Manifesto website or contact the Dairy Cow Mobility Steering Group via AHDB.

View the full manifesto document at:
<https://ruminanthw.org.uk/activities/uk-welfare-strategies/dairy-cow-lameness/>
Contact: Alison.Russell@ahdb.org.uk