

PERCEPTION OF LAMENESS IN THE WELSH DAIRY INDUSTRY

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EIPWALES

Cydweithio er ffyniant gwledig
Collaborating for rural success

Results from a survey of 18 dairy farmers in south east Wales involved in a wider project assessing the impact of different knowledge exchange methods on producer behaviour and lameness prevalence.

How important do you think lameness/cattle mobility is in the Welsh dairy industry?

Scale from 1 (not important) to 5 (very important)



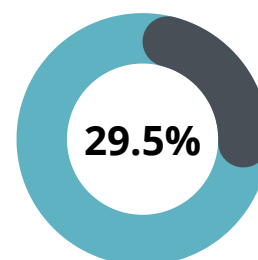
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Range: 4-5

Why do you think lameness is important?



Estimated % of the Welsh dairy herd that is lame

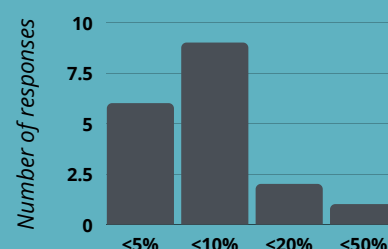


Range: 10-75%

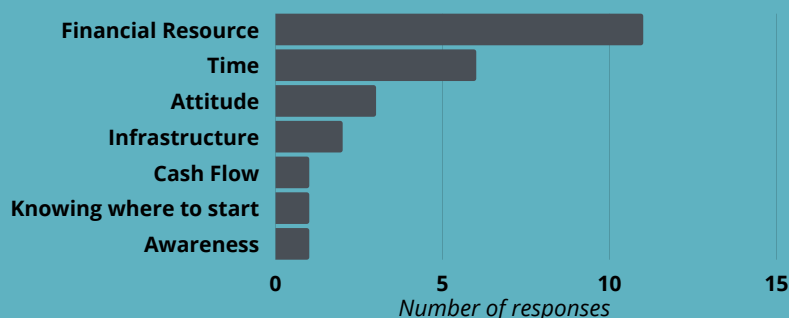
What do you think the Welsh dairy industry does well in terms of tackling lameness?



Proposed lameness target (% lame)



What do you think the biggest barriers are to making improvements?



What could the Welsh dairy industry do better in terms of lameness?



Conclusion: The farmers taking part in this EIP Wales Project consider foot health in dairy cattle to be important due to its impact on welfare, economics and public perception. Current lameness levels in the Welsh dairy herd are above the target proposed by respondents, with the main barriers to improving this cited as financial resource, time and attitude towards lameness. The next phase of the project will investigate the impact of different methods of knowledge exchange on farmer behaviour and lameness prevalence.