

FARMING DIARY FOR FEBRUARY 2013

SPRING TURNOUT



SPRING AT HENSLEY FARM

The 27th February was the day the cows had been waiting for - spring turnout! To start with they only spend the morning outside and we gradually build up to a full day. They will continue to stay in by night until the weather warms up and there is plenty of grass for them to eat.



Cows out to graze



Nice to be out!

This also gives them chance to adjust to their new diet of grass after having spent the winter months eating silage and concentrates. Sudden and complete change of diet puts the cow's body under stress and consequently impacts on their milk production and fertility.

The next day was the turn of our in-calf heifers to enjoy the spring grass. The heifers that have already been pregnancy diagnosed (PD'd) by the vet went out first with the second batch going out on 5th March after they'd also been confirmed as pregnant. As with the cows, a sudden change in diet and temperature can risk them losing their calf in the very early stages of pregnancy.



Heifers frisking around the field - freedom!



In-calf heifers out to spring grass

Whereas the cows are only out for 3-4 hours on the first couple of days, the heifers are out 24 hours a day and there is still a chance of frosty mornings.

The September and October born heifer calves, will hopefully go out in the next couple of weeks, when the night time temperatures start to rise.