

A TYPICAL CHRISTMAS DAY FOR A DAIRY FARMER!

A dairy farmer's job is 365 days a year, including Christmas Day! The cows still need to be milked twice and the calves need to be fed!

To save a bit of time on the big day I try to plan ahead and do a few extra jobs in the run up, such as bagging up feed in the right amounts for each group of stock, opening silage bales, etc. The machinery that is used on a daily basis checked, greased, filled up with diesel, etc, in the hope that it won't break down on Christmas morning! On Christmas Eve, the heifers and calves are given extra straw in their sheds so they don't need to be bedded again on Christmas Day. They also have extra silage to see them through until Boxing Day.



Last year we were busy thawing water pipes but at least it looks as though the weather is going to be on our side this year!

So, Christmas Day has arrived:-

1. Get up extra early, 5am
2. Wake the cows up and drive them out of the cubicle sheds into the yard ready for milking.
3. One of us will milk the cows while the other cleans and beds the cubicles, scrapes the yards and feeds the silage.
4. A.I. the cows that were bulling the day before.
5. Give the baby calves their milk.
6. Scrape out the feed passages in the heifer sheds.
7. Aim to be in for breakfast to see the children open some pressies by 9am!
8. Enjoy some family time and roast turkey with all the trimmings!
9. 3.45pm feed the calves again.
10. Scrape the cow yards and bed the cubicles.
11. Milk the cows
12. Relax at 6.45pm and return to the chocolates!

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year, from all at Hensley Farm.