

Wires, Magnets and Sick Cows

In our experience one of the commonest cause of sick cows is problems with internal abscesses caused by wire penetrations. This can cause cows with milk drop, vague illness, DA's or sudden death.

Preventing "Hardware or Tyre Wire" disease is essential if you want a healthy herd.

We have now sourced a new magnet that can be simply administered by mouth prior to the heifer entering the herd and this will reduce the incidence by 95%. Naturally removing the source of wires is important too! The new magnet is specially imported from the USA and is in a half cage and stops the problem we have with the green magnets where the cage fills up with material and stops working.

	
<p>Tyres degrade over time and then contaminate the silage. Often they are only removed after the damage is done</p>	<p>The traditional magnets run the risk of filling up with wires and then they lose their ability to protect the cow</p>
	
<p>Sloping faces on the clamp face are where most of the contamination occurs. It is also a problem when the sheets are not removed carefully. Do you roll or cut?</p>	<p>The new magnet is much stronger and is in a half cage. This affords the best combination of protection for the cow. More space for any wires to accumulate and greater levels of magnetism.</p>

What steps can you take to protect yourself against wires?

- If you use tyres on your silage clamp then you should make sure every cow has a magnet. The cost is minimal. One dead cow will pay for 800 magnets! Cheap insurance. Just do it.
- Reduce the number of tyres on the clamp and source alternative approaches to clamping silage
- Dispose of tyres. Proactively hunt out damaged tyres. Store tyres better. If you damage or break the bead then the tyre will fragment. This is short term and not the best option
- Take particular care with big bale silage feeding through feeders. The big bale silage wagons often do not have magnets on them and they will Hoover up wires in the field and then these are crushed up in the feeder wagon.
- Keep a tidy farm. Prevent access to bonfire ash as cows will eat this and this is often contaminated with metal.

If you would like to order some magnets contact the farm office. We have ordered some stock for you.