

Livestock 2012 to attract 16,000

NORTHERN farmers will be out in force at Livestock 2012, the UK's largest livestock business event, at the NEC, Birmingham, on September 4 and 5.

Agriculture Minister Jim Paice will officially open the event and is expected to launch the new voluntary code of practice on dairy contracts in his speech.

He will then tour the event giving farmers the opportunity to discuss the code's implications and the option and future for producer organisations.

Visitors will have 55 short seminars to choose from, covering all livestock, each day and designed to bring them up to speed with animal health, nutrition, business issues and practical livestock farming.

Farmers and their vets will be teaming up to address some of the most common problems.

The vets include Jonathan Statham, from Bishopton Veterinary Group, Ripon.

Nick Everington, chief executive of organisers the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers, said: "With 98 per cent of exhibitors selling dairy products and services, dairying will remain a key focus at the rebranded Livestock 2012, and it is the first UK specialist business event to embrace all species – dairy, beef, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry. It is scheduled to attract well over 16,000 visitors.

"For dairy farmers in particular, the event will offer them the chance to meet not only processors and their respective farmer representatives to discuss milk prices, but equally important, the time to catch up with the nutrition companies to discuss winter feed options."