

A Day in the Life of a Red Poll Cow in Summer

- 06:00: Get up and have a stretch.
- 06:30: Eat some grass, then stroll to the trough for a drink.
- 07:00: Walk round the edge of the field to see if there are any gaps in the hedges or fences to get out through.
- 08:00: Report any problems or concerns to the lead cow. Eat some more grass.
- 09:00: Follow lead cow to field gate to await arrival of master.
- 09:30: Lead cow reports issues to master. These are usually matters of silage and hay quality, numbers of thistles and docks in the pasture, and low mineral lick bucket to cow ratio.
- 10:00: Follow master to mineral buckets. Jostle with other cows to be the first to get a lick in.
- 10:05: Follow master round field while he checks fences. Make mental note of weak sections of fence which he does not notice in case we decide to get out later.
- 10:30: Try to pull all the bale string out of master's coat pocket as he leaves field.
- 11:00: Lie down in the shade and chew the cud for a while. Lazily flick a few flies with tail.
- 12:00: All quietly follow unsuspecting fisherman towards river bank. This is a great game, because usually he will get half way across the field, realise we are behind him, think he is being chased, and quicken his gate. Speed up but keep behind him. When he turns and flees for the gate, follow him to it and then stand and watch him make an undignified exit from our field.
- 12:15: Eat bread dropped by fisherman. Then eat some more grass.
- 13:00: Amble down to the river for a drink. Then walk into the river to cool off. If the water is shallow enough, try to walk out up the far bank. Problem: master has got wise to this one and put an electric fence up.
- 14:00: Walk round edge of field, rubbing against trees, hedges, fences and gates to see what we can break.
- 14:45: Lie down and chew the cud again for a while.
- 16:00: Not much happening. All go to the gate and start blarting. That should draw some attention.
- 16:15: Run along inside of road hedge with tails in air to try and upset passing horse and rider.
- 16:30: Chase dog.
- 17:00: Eat some more grass, then go to drink from the trough and have another lick from the mineral buckets.
- 17:15: As at 11:00.
- 19:00: Last feed and drink of the day. Lie down in group and discuss the day's events with the lead cow. Wonder whether we will be moved to a new pasture tomorrow. Go to sleep for a while.

Huw Rowlands
10/03/2007.