

Top award for dairy farming veterinary adviser



ALASTAIR Hayton, of Synergy Farm Health in Dorset, won the 2015 Farm Adviser of the Year category in the *Farmers Weekly* Awards.

Mr Hayton, who is part of a team of 27 vets at Synergy, has over 200 dairy farming clients and is the UK's second largest farm vet business. Out of his personal roster of 13 clients, four are organic milk producers. His other work includes advising two supermarket chains, authoring a number of papers and a book, and he is said to be pioneering a new TB test. He told *Farmers Weekly*: "TB is the biggest single obstacle to our dairy clients, so we see the test as potentially providing significant benefits to the control of bovine TB in the UK."

Singing Mr Hayton's praises to the paper was dairy farmer Anthony Gothard, who has worked with him for nine years and describes him as "one of the top vets in the country". Mr Hayton helped Mr Gothard with the decision to expand his operation following the Somerset floods in the winter of 2012-13, a move that proved beneficial. "We had the security of knowing we had an expert on board when we were expanding, and the wealth of his knowledge is unbelievable," Mr Gothard told *Farmers Weekly*.

