Computer technology: robotic milking and interactive mirrors
Keeping check on the cows

Neil Rowes:
This picture here is actually a live picture of the cow that's on the robot and we're seeing all of the information about her today. This screen is showing us a number of graphs. The first one is showing us the milk yield of the cow against the computer prediction. And this one is showing us the quality of the milk. This graph is showing us the cow's temperature. Her average against today's. And we've got a very small increase there. Nothing to worry about. The bottom one here is showing the computer allocation of starch and protein. And this one is showing how much she's actually eaten of her allocation. Every eight hours I've got eight what are called 'Exception Reports'. Cows which have deviated from normal behaviour. And I can look at those numbers and see if I know why it's happened, or if there may be a problem. In which case I will go and find the cow.

Narrator:
Neil checks the data every morning. But occasionally the computer comes across a problem that needs human intervention, and can't wait.

Neil Rowes:
The whole of the system is wired in to an alarm system with which I can programme up to ten telephone numbers. Which will it will dial in sequence, until it finds someone to answer. And when the alarm goes off, it will ring me up on my mobile phone, and it will give me a number of text messages telling me if we've got a problem with the power supply. If we've got a problem with a cow on the robot. I can then text it back and say 'try for another twenty minutes'. And if it still hasn't managed to do it, then someone will have to attend and sort out the problem.