

Dear Farmer,

The practice has seen a busy summer. We are now close to finishing our refurbishment work at our Bovey Tracey surgery which started in March. We look forward to having normality (if there is such a thing) resume.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, if you are a member of the Beef and Lamb Red Tractor Assurance Scheme and haven't already done so, contact us to arrange a suitable time for one of our vets to visit so we can help you comply with the scheme's standards. Assessors will ask to see your herd/flock health plans and that they have been reviewed annually by yourself and a vet. A vet will also need to carry out an annual Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review.

Following a review with yourselves, our vets are able to formulate a herd/flock health plan if you do not currently have one in place.

We strongly recommend members look at the new standards before they receive a phone call from the assessor, as often this is at short notice and we may not be able to complete a review in the time required.

For those who have already had their annual visit this year, remember the reviews are frequent, so be prepared for your next visit.

Following on from suggestions from our farm clients who attended our Livestock Medicine Storage & Administration Course that was held at the White Hart in September overleaf is a dosaging guide for the most commonly prescribed medicines. We would recommend that you keep this handy guide in your medicine cabinet so you can easily refer to it if the labels on the bottles which have been dispensed become obscured in anyway or if data sheets go missing on farm.

MEDICINE STORAGE

It is important to store medicines correctly to ensure they do not degrade and don't lose their effectiveness. It also prevents accidental poisoning.

Medicines must be kept on farm in an appropriate locked store and stored as per manufacturer's instructions. Fridge medicines are to be stored between 2 - 8°C, if stored within your household refrigerator they should be stored in a container. Most other medicines should not be stored above 25°C and be protected from light. We recommend using a minimum/maximum thermometer to ensure your storage is kept at the right temperature so medicines are not spoilt.

As the quality can be impaired when fridge medicines, especially vaccines when stored at the incorrect temperature we recommend that you bring a cool bag to the surgery when collecting prescribed fridge medicines.

Medicines waste and sharps should be disposed of appropriately, we are able to provide pharmaceutical waste and sharps bins, the price of these include disposal. So once full return them to the surgery and we will ensure they are disposed of appropriately.

