



Dear Farmer,

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter. As I write this we are having some much needed rain and the grass has really started to grow, hopefully by the time you read this the rain will have stopped enough to get into the fields!

We have had a few enquiries about farmers being certified / trained to administer medicines for Red Tractor inspections, so we will be holding a short course (not more than a couple of hours) in the summer to cover this and issue a certificate of competence for your records for those who attend the training. If you would like to go on the list for this please let one of the offices know.

Over the last year we have seen a very encouraging increase in the number of worm egg count samples, if you have not already got into the habit of having the youngstock checked prior to worming, it is a really useful tool to save money and time by avoiding unnecessary treatments and reduce the development of resistance. We are able to perform worm egg counts in our Bovey Tracey branch for just £5 per sample; feel free to discuss with one of the vets the best groups to sample and when to do it.

This summer we hope to be attending Chagford show as normal so don't forget to pop over and see us for a drink and some cake and to enter our raffle.

Ashley

## ARE YOUR HERD AND FLOCK HEALTH PLANS UP TO DATE?

Health planning is an essential tool for improving profitability and animal health. Many farmers will already have existing herd and/or flock health plans in place. These plans are most effective when accurate records are kept and therefore should be reassessed annually by a vet to ensure management and preventative measures can be implemented on farm. Remember prevention is much better than cure and much less costly.

For farmers who are farm assured it is essential health plans are reviewed annually and that a vet completes a Health, Performance & Antibiotic Usage Review form at the same time.

To have your health plan reviewed please contact us to make an appointment with one of our vets.

## LOAN OF EQUIPMENT CHARGES

We do have a small range of equipment we happily loan out to farmers such as a hoist and an aggers pump. In the past we have always loaned these out free of charge, but in the last few years items are not being returned or are being returned damaged. These items are expensive for us to keep replacing therefore we have decided that charges will be applied when equipment is loaned out. A minimum charge of £10 for every 7 days that the equipment is out on loan will be applied to your farms account should you borrow such equipment from the practice. Hopefully this will encourage farmers to return equipment as soon as it has been finished with.

## TUBERCULIN TESTING

The Spring generally sees a spike in the amount of testing we need to get through, this year has been particularly challenging. We are currently fully booked for May and the majority of June for all types of TB tests. As soon as you receive your notification of a TB test through the post please contact us so that we can book your TB test. Tb testing is booked on a first come, first served basis. If you are aware there are sales or shows coming up that you usually attend book in your pre-movement test well in advance to avoid disappointment.

Don' t forget.....

- Vaccinate lambs to prevent Pasteurella and Clostridial Disease
- Consider lung worm vaccination for calves being turned out to first grazing
- Watch out for scouring lambs and calves and get advice about treatment
  - Check bulls before needed for working, consider veterinary MOTs and extra feed
- Plan cow vaccines - BVD, IBR etc.
  - FEC for early born lambs
- Check NADIS for Nematodirus forecast

## GAMMA-INTERFERON BLOOD TEST FOR TB

As part of the national TB strategy the Gamma-interferon blood test is being used across Devon, where certain criteria are met (most likely transmission route is cattle; or herd is in an area that has had 2 years of culling; or repeated skin testing has failed to resolve a breakdown). Given this is a new test for many the NFU have organised a number of meetings across the county in association with APHA so NFU members can gain more understanding of the test and ask any questions they may have. If you can't make a meeting or are not NFU members, but want to find out more there is information on the TB Hub (<https://tbhub.co.uk/tb-policy/england/wider-use-interferon-gamma-blood-testing-high-risk-area-england/>).

**Thursday 9th May, 7.30pm – NFU Regional Office, Exeter, EX2 5ST**

**TBC – The NFU are also planning on holding a meeting in South Devon, with the date and location to be confirmed. To book a place call 01392 440700 or email [south.west@nfu.org.uk](mailto:south.west@nfu.org.uk)**

There are also some TB Advisory Service meetings coming up, which will be more of a general TB update and discussion (see below).

**Wednesday 8th May, 11am – Dartmoor Halfway Inn, Ashburton Road, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6JW**

**To book a place call 01306 779410 or email [info@tbas.org.uk](mailto:info@tbas.org.uk)**



## BVD STAMP IT OUT UPDATE

With 30 of our clients herds already signed up to BVD Stamp it Out, our vets have been busy getting testing and farm visits underway. Across England there are now nearly 3,500 farmers enrolled in the programme. The control and eventual removal of BVD from our national herd has been a goal for many years, and this project sits alongside and supports farmers in registering with the BVDFree initiative, which has been in place for 2 years.

We will be holding a second cluster meeting for farmers who may be interested in joining this programme; date to be confirmed soon. The funding available within this programme will enable farmers to apply for one-to-one farm advisory visits with us. Vets will work with keepers of breeding cattle to tackle BVD on their farms. Funding is only available to farmers who have attended a cluster meeting, so if you are interested keep an eye open for the date of the next meeting.



## JOINT ILL

Joint ill (Infectious polyarthritis) is a common cause of lameness in young lambs and calves that is caused by a bacterial infection. Usually the route of infection is through the navel, tail or castration wounds. The gut and upper respiratory tract are now thought to be significant routes of infection, which are invaded by pathogenic bacteria from a contaminated environment and travel via the bloodstream causing localised build-up of bacteria in the joints.

Affected joints are swollen, hot, and painful. Infection causes considerable muscle wastage and can result in sudden death. Joint ill can be treated successfully if the disease is diagnosed early. As Joint-ill is caused by bacteria, treatment with high doses of antibiotics is recommended along with an anti-inflammatory injection.

### Prevention is better than cure:

Every effort must be taken to reduce the risk of bacteraemia by ensuring timely adequate passive antibody transfer and reducing environmental bacterial challenge.

- Reduce environmental bacterial challenge by maintaining good hygiene.
- Newborns must ingest sufficient colostrum during the first 6 hours of life.
- Appropriate navel treatments to be used as soon as possible after birth.



Farms that have a problem with joint-ill during lambing or calving time should have their lambing or calving management reviewed and improved as part of the overall Health Plans. Please speak to one of our vets if you wish to discuss this matter further.

## Practice Facilities

Appointment System  
Parking  
24 Hour Emergency Service  
Modern Surgical Facilities  
Nurse Clinics  
In-House Laboratory  
Digital X Ray Machine  
Endoscopy  
Pet Care Plans

## BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

Mill House, Station Road,  
Bovey Tracey, Newton  
Abbot, TQ13 9AL  
TELEPHONE ; 01626  
833023

## MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

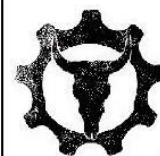
31 Court Street,  
Moretonhampstead,  
Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG  
TELEPHONE ; 01647  
440441

## CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,  
Exeter, EX6 7NS  
For appointments/repeat  
prescriptions etc.  
TELEPHONE; 01626 833023

## FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE

**TELEPHONE : 01647  
440441**



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