



2022 December Newsletter



Avian Influenza Update



As of the 7th of November, housing measures to protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza in England are now in force. It is a mandatory requirement for all bird keepers across England to keep their birds housed and to follow strict biosecurity measures in order to limit the spread and to eradicate the disease.

Wales and Scotland are currently still mandating for strict biosecurity measures with no housing requirement.

More information is available on GOV.UK at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-housing-order-to-be-introduced-across-england>.

Definitive requirements are set out in the published declarations for each disease control zone currently in force.

More information is available on GOV.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu-cases-and-disease-control-zones-in-england>

Have you clipped your beef cattle?

It's that time of year when cattle are being fetched in ready for winter and we know that British winters can be unusually warm making a lot of housed cattle uncomfortable. There are a lot of positives to clipping cattle to improve comfort and reduce risk of disease.

Beef animals that will be housed in straw yards will be especially at risk, as these animals can become very sweaty due to their muscle mass and thick hair. Clipping beef cattle backs has fortunately become very commonplace in UK agriculture as more and more farmers realise the additional benefits that they gain from keeping their cattle cool.

If an animal is too hot, they waste energy sweating trying to cool down. If their backs are clipped it helps keep them cool allowing them to use that energy to potentially increase their daily intake which in turn would then aid growth and feed intake. Another additional advantage is reducing risk of pneumonia, as a sweaty coat that cools will chill an animal.

But it's not just back clipping that is important at this time of year. Whilst clipping their backs it would be worth doing their tails as this will help keep them clean. This would also benefit milking cows, helping keep their udders clean and therefore reducing the risk of mastitis.

Pre-housing for winter is a good time to ensure the welfare management of your cattle is up to date. Do any cattle need their udders tidying up before being housed? Clipping is an opportune time to carry out other cow management routines, for example freeze branding!



Christmas Opening Times



Medicines Course

The next Medicines course will be at 2pm at Sedgemoor Auction Centre on **Wednesday 14th December 2022**. Please call any of our offices to book your place today.

Vaccine Stock Levels

Unfortunately we had an electrical problem and lost a considerable amount of vaccine in our fridges. This together with the possibility of power outages in the winter has made us change policy on keeping lots of vaccine in our fridges.

We will now only keep small top up amounts. Larger amounts must be pre-ordered for next day delivery. (15 deliveries a week across our 3 sites).

PLEASE RING AHEAD FOR VACCINE ORDERS.

Big congratulations to Tom!

Tom has passed the DBR - the Diploma in Bovine Reproduction!

This qualification covers all Bovine matters but has an emphasis on reproduction.

It is a very difficult course involving long long hours of work, and is very well respected by his peers in the Veterinary industry. Although a great personal achievement for Tom, the knowledge he has gained helps the practice and our clients.

We would also like to thank our farmers who have allowed Tom to carry out DBR work on their farms.

We are all very proud of Tom.



Have a very Merry Christmas from the FarmVets team

Christmas Eve (Saturday 24th)	Closed
Christmas Day (Sunday 25th)	Closed
Boxing Day (Monday 26th)	Closed
Bank Holiday (Tuesday 27th)	Closed
Wednesday 28 th	Open as normal
Thursday 29 th	Open as normal
Friday 30 th	Open as normal
Saturday 31 st	Open 9am-12.30pm (Bridgwater only)
Bank Holiday (Monday 2 nd January)	Closed

The End of Sheep Farming

Vegans? Carbon Taxes? Brexit?...Which of these is going to reduce the likelihood of viable sheep farms in the future. It's actually **Anthelmintic resistance!**

Anthelmintic resistance is the resistance of parasites to the treatments that we administer. And we are seeing **a lot** of farms with multi-resistant parasites on farm. A few cold hard facts for you...

UK Studies have shown....

94% of farms have evidence of resistance to Benzimidazole; That means worms are resistant to all these products...

Albacert, Albenil, Albex, Benzimole, Bovex, Endospec, Ovidrench, Panacur, Rycoben SC, Tramazole, Zerofen.

68% of farms have evidence of resistance to Levamisole; That means worms are resistant to all these products...

Chanaverm, Levacide, Levacur SC, Levamole, Levafas Diamond, Combinex Sheep, Download Fluke and Worm.

51% of farms have evidence of resistance to Ivermectin; That means worms are resistant to all these products...

Closamectin, Closiver, Fasimec Duo, Animec, Bimectin, Ivomec, Molemec Injection, Molemec Drench, Noromectin, Oramec, Panomec, Paramectin, Premadex.

19% of farms have evidence of resistance to Moxidectin; That means worms are resistant to all these products...**Zermex, Moxodex, Cydectin, Cydectin Triclamox.**

Notice any of the wormers you use regularly in the list above?

Do you routinely drench ewes for worms?

Do you end up using more than 3 drenches in lambs pre-finishing?

Taking longer than 6 months to finish lambs?

Call today to engage in some proactive parasite planning and protect sheep farming on your holding for the future.

If you decide to just keep throwing drench at the problem then don't worry about carbon taxes, vegans or Brexit this is what will finish your sheep farming enterprise....