

THE UPDATE

It was lovely to catch up with lots of you at the OBH Point-to-point over a drink and hotdog!!!

The Thame office has extended the premises, pop in and try out the new leather sofa!!



SMALLHOLDERS CORNER

Herd and Flock Health Planning

As we get towards the end of spring it might be time to think about updating your herd or flock health plan (or creating one if you don't have one yet!).

A lot of farmers are now part of the Red Tractor Scheme (FABBL) which requires a Health Plan to be reviewed annually by a vet, however, even if you are not part of the Red Tractor Scheme we would recommend that you still have some form of Health Plan.

A Health Plan can be created as a calendar so you can easily check what health interventions are required each month, therefore avoiding missing any treatments or doing them late. The annual review of the health plan is also useful as we can go through any issues you've had over the last year and update the Health Plan to reflect any changes you might need to make.

Writing the Health Plan is best done as a sit-down session with everyone who is involved in looking after the animals. If we haven't been out to you very much in the last year a brief farm-walk to look at your set-up is required, as the animals have to be seen on farm within the last 12 months in order to dispense medications. The Health Plan visit could be used for this if we are not out very frequently.

Please note that for your Red Tractor/FABBL inspection you now require a health review as well as antibiotic usage review, completed and signed by your vet every year.

Please get in touch with us as early as possible to ensure these do not go out of date.



bTB CHeCS Herd Accreditation scheme



If you missed our meeting, then here is a bit about it.

What is involved in the new bTB CHeCS Herd Accreditation scheme?

- Each herd is graded according to risk of TB
- Each herd is scored from 0-10 according to how many years the herd has been TB free
- Only home bred animals can be accredited

This scheme benefits those of you who are in a high-risk area of TB with a low risk holding. Also, those of you who sell cattle and want your low risk TB status recognised as well as when buying in stock you want to minimise your risk of introducing TB.

Benefits of using this scheme:

- Improve your biosecurity
- Can share your accreditation level when selling animals privately and at market
- Continue to receive 100% compensation for all compulsorily slaughtered cattle provided the herd is accredited (with a score of 1 or above) at the time of the breakdown
- For those of you in a 6 monthly testing area you can reduce your testing to annual **IF**:
 - You have not had a breakdown for 6 years
 - You are CHeCS level 1 or above – TB free for at least 1 year

Mandatory requirements if you wish to be part of this scheme:

A few of which are listed below.

- Facilities for testing
- Positive and IR animals – place in isolation, do not feed milk to calves
- Added animals must be **PRE** and **POST** (60-120 after arrival) movement tested – at the cost of the keeper
 - **RECOMMENDED** – Isolate new animals SO if a new animal is tested positive CHeCS status not affected. But if not, isolated herd will be treated as though it has had a breakdown and CHeCS status will be lost
- Health plan covering the control of TB must be put in place, updated annually and signed by the vet and herd owner/manager.
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If you want to find out more please get in touch with one of the vets or take a look at

<http://www.checs.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/FINAL-Handbook-for-CHeCS-bTB-Herd-Accreditation-281116-1.pdf>

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