

## NorCal News...

### Please be aware!

As we are moving over to email invoices / statements, we are experiencing some glitches, resulting in invoices not being sent or processed. To overcome this problem, we will be sending out statements if it looks like a missed payment has occurred, apologies if you have been affected.

If you have requested email invoices please add [thame@norcalvets.co.uk](mailto:thame@norcalvets.co.uk) to your email contacts to prevent them from going into the junk/spam folder.

## Autumn TB Tests

The Autumn TB testing rush has started - please contact us as soon as you have your testing window to arrange your test - the earlier we can get them booked in, the more likely we will be able to accommodate your preferred dates!

The test reading day is a great opportunity to make the most of having a vet out and get some other jobs done, such as castrations, disbuds, dehornes etc. If you can let us know when you book the test if there are extra jobs to do then this helps us to allocate enough time.

For Spring calvers it's the perfect time to do some PDs so that you can cull any empty cows and save the cost of feeding them through the winter. To make the most of this, try and take your bulls out at least a month before the PD session so that we can give you definitive negative results. This will also help to tighten up your calving pattern and save you waiting around for those few late calvers that always seem to cause more trouble than they're worth...

We know Covid-19 has made testing a bit more of a challenge for some farms - if you have specific concerns about carrying out the test safely please get in touch with us and we can put extra measures in place. All the vets have masks in their vans so if you think it will not be possible to maintain social distancing just let us know.

Finally, if you are thinking about upgrading your crush or part of your handling system then have a chat with us about what improvements you could make. We are fortunate enough to see a wide range of different systems so we are well placed to make suggestions on what might work for you!

## Medicines Administration Course

We now have a Red Tractor Approved medicine administration training course that can be delivered in person or online via Zoom!

It is a Red Tractor requirement that all medicines are administered by a competent person, and a recommendation for beef and sheep farmers that competency is demonstrated by completing an approved course.

Our course covers all aspects of medicines use, including storage, administration, disposal and record keeping to ensure you are up to date with all the Red Tractor requirements. Once completed, all participants will be issued with a certificate of attendance.



If you are interested in completing the course please get in touch with the practice.



## Scours

Autumn calving is getting underway and key to maximising profitability is ensuring calves survive and thrive to achieve optimum growth rates. Scours can have a huge impact on calf growth, survival and longer term gut health, and is one of the biggest challenges faced by many herds at this time of year. If you are experiencing scours, even at a low level, it's worth getting a sample tested to find out which diseases you are dealing with. This can help to inform how we treat cases, but more importantly can enable us to develop the best strategy for preventing scours on your farm. If coronavirus (not *that* one!), rotavirus or E coli are implicated, then vaccination could have a significant cost benefit for your herd. The Rotavec Corona vaccine needs to be given to cows between 12-3 weeks before the expected calving date and will then protect calves suckling from them during the calves' first few weeks of life.

Other control measures for all types of scour include regular mucking out and disinfecting of calving pens and maintaining a clean and well bedded environment for cows and calves. If you can, isolating affected calves and their dams may help to reduce the spread of disease. Ensure cows are heading into calving time in the right body condition and are receiving adequate energy in the diet to drive good milk production and colostrum quality.

If you do have calves affected by scours, the most important element of treatment is maintaining their hydration status with fluids. Typically this involves bottle or tube feeding them with rehydration gels or sachets, but for severe cases calves may benefit from intravenous fluids. In addition, anti-inflammatories such as Meloxidyl/Inflacam are recommended for cases of scours. Depending on the underlying cause, it may also be appropriate to add an antibiotic, cocci treatment or to treat for Cryptosporidium.

Don't let scours pull your herd performance down - get in touch with us for more information and advice.

## New Generation Sheep Wormers

Whilst white, yellow and clear wormer products still form the mainstay of worm treatment strategies for most sheep farms, it's really important to also integrate the newer orange (Zolvix) and/or purple (Startect) wormer products into your worm control plan so that the effectiveness of all available products is prolonged.

In order to get the maximum benefit from these newer products, and to protect them for as long as possible against the development of resistant worms, there are **two** occasions where we would recommend using one of them:

1. As a quarantine dose for all incoming sheep that are moving onto your farm - to prevent these otherwise healthy animals bringing with them resistant worms, that could then introduce new resistance onto your farm.
2. As a break dose for lambs in the mid-late grazing season to kill off any resistant worms that have survived previous treatments with other products, and ideally only after doing worm egg counts. This not only benefits lamb growth rates but also helps to slow the rate of resistance development against the older types of wormers. If you do a break dose with Zolvix or Startect ensure **all** lambs are treated, make sure you treat to the correct weight, and do not move lambs onto clean pasture straight away after dosing - leave them on the dirty pasture for 4-5 days and then move them. These measures are crucial in preventing the development of resistance to these new products.

**For more advice on choosing wormers, speak to one of the vets.**

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