

## Vet team news

*This month we say goodbye to Hannah...*

As some of you may know, I am off to pastures new and my last day at NorCal will be Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March. I am moving to Somerset to continue as a farm vet, but also to have a go at some equine work too (madness I know!). I have had an amazing 18 months at NorCal and cannot thank you enough for being such great clients. I will miss you all and I am hoping my new clients will be just as friendly and entertaining! In Evan's words, "I'll be back like a bad smell", so I am sure I will see some of you in the not-too-distant future!

All the best,

Hannah x

*... And welcome new vet Kathriona to our team*

"I'm from a small Suckler farm in Mayo on the west coast of Ireland. In my area it is mainly family run Suckler and sheep farms. My father grew up in Hertfordshire where my aunt still lives. My brother and another aunt and uncle live in London. Hobby wise I live very near the sea so I walk a lot with my border collie Bailey and play Gaelic football and soccer. I'm interested in all areas of farm animal veterinary particularly preventative medicine."



## Herd health plans for Red Tractor/Farm Assurance inspections



If possible, please let us know at least a week before your inspection if you require a herd health plan/antibiotic review from a vet. We will need you to fill in and return some forms to us and also to have a discussion with a vet – either on the phone or in person. It is a good chance to have a yearly review of your herd/flock and to find new ways to improve the health and productivity going forward.

The tb test read off day could also be a great time to have this discussion and for the vet to get a better picture of your farm and any issues with the livestock.

**This month's medicine course will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm on Zoom – please call or email the office to book your place.**



### **Subsidised blood testing scheme now available to help identify possible reasons for early lamb losses**

MSD Animal Health has launched its 2021 FlockCheck diagnostic service, which allows sheep farmers in England, Scotland and Wales to ask their vet to blood test their flock for exposure to toxoplasmosis and enzootic abortion (EAE).

Sheep farmers that experience more than 2% of their flock barren or aborting this lambing season are being encouraged to contact their vet to take advantage of the subsidised diagnostic scheme. FlockCheck has been running for more than 15 years and is available from vets nationally. It requires practitioners to take blood samples from six to eight aborted, unvaccinated ewes, or from barren ewes or ones that have produced weakly lambs.

Annual FlockCheck blood test results consistently show that the majority of aborted ewes tested have been exposed to either toxoplasmosis or EAE – and sometimes both.

The subsidised FlockCheck diagnostic service allows vets to identify whether toxoplasmosis or EAE (or both) are likely to have been involved in any aborted lamb losses, barren ewes or numbers of weak, sickly lambs. This aids the decision for (and identifies the potential value of) pre-tupping vaccination programmes.

Farmers interested in taking advantage of the subsidised FlockCheck diagnostic service and reducing the risk of lower productivity should contact us as soon as possible. This year's FlockCheck scheme runs until 30th June 2021.

### **Ringvac alternative**

Unfortunately the factory that manufactures Bovilis Ringvac (cattle ringworm vaccine) will be closed for 3 years! The good news is that we have sourced an alternative vaccine – Trichoben. Please get in contact if you are interested in ordering or for any more information.

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#### **Please note:**

Any cheques/post are now to be sent to this address.

Many thanks