

Booking 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! Please also try to give us enough notice for any pre-movement testing you require prior to selling cattle.

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...

Medicines Administration Course

Tuesday 12th October 6pm @ Office
(approx. 1hr, drink and snacks provided)



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.

Cost of the course is £35+ VAT per person

If you are interested in attending the course please email thame@norcalvets.co.uk or call 01844 260616

Congratulations Becca!

Becca has successfully completed her TBAS (TB Advisory Service) training meaning she is able to offer farmers free biosecurity advice to protect their herds. If you are interested in reducing your TB risk please get in touch.

Dectomax 200ml

We have stock of Dectomax Injectable 200ml – suitable for treating sheep scab and worming sheep.

Cost: £80 ex VAT.

Preparing For Winter Housing

Now that we are well into the autumn many of you will be preparing for winter housing. It is now important to consider issues such as ventilation and pneumonia prevention and parasite management.

Ventilation

Good ventilation of a shed is vital to:

- Remove heat and moisture
- Remove pathogens (viruses and bacteria)
- Remove gases.

Vaccination for Pneumonia

Ideally calves should be vaccinated before the main risk period e.g., suckler calves are better vaccinated before housing so that immunity has developed by the time, they are brought in. To get the maximum benefit from any vaccination programme try to minimise stress at the time of vaccination (e.g., avoid disbudding, castrating or weaning at the same time) and do not vaccinate sick animals. Take care when handling and storing vaccines – transport them from the practice in a cool bag and store in a fridge until ready for use. Please ask us for advice about vaccinations you can use before housing.

Parasite Management

Housing is a good time of year to treat for common internal and external parasites.

Fluke treatment:

A few things to remember if you are only planning to treat for liver fluke once:

- Drench cattle two weeks after housing with a product containing triclabendazole
- If you use a product that kills immature fluke (usually an injection or pour-on product) you need to wait at least seven weeks after housing before you give it.
- If you are using a product that only kills mature fluke (these are mostly injection and oral drench products) you wait for at least 10 weeks after housing before you give it.

In all other situations you will have to treat cattle twice over the winter for fluke. For example, if you are using a product two weeks after housing (which is a common time to treat for stomach worms and lice) that controls immature and adult fluke, you will have to treat them again five weeks later with a similar fluke product.

Worms

All youngstock should be wormed at housing as it will remove the burden of worms both dormant and active preventing disease in the spring. It also ensures a worm burden does not suppress the animal's ability to make the most of their food in the housing period. Use white wormers several days after housing to ensure all worms are at the susceptible stage. A clear group wormer can be used prior to housing which is beneficial if lungworm is known to be a problem.

Lice/Mites:

Whilst housing prevents further infection from pasture -associated parasites like roundworms and fluke, the risk of lice or mite infestations increase! As they can spread directly from animal to animal very easily once near each other in relatively warm and dry conditions!

Several products containing either synthetic pyrethroids or group 3 MLs are available in pour on / spot on or injectable formulations. In instances where treatment is required, it is important to first identify the causative agent to determine the most appropriate treatment!

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NorCal Vets

Saturday hours

Please note the office will now be open 9am – 12pm on a Saturday morning for any drug collections/reception enquiries.

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