

## New team member

This month we welcome Jenni Lewis to NorCal as a Vet Tech/Tb tester.

Jenni has plenty of cattle experience having grown up on a beef farm and setting up a herd of Dexter cattle from the age of 9. In 2016 she set up her own herd of pedigree Simmentals that she breeds and shows throughout the year.



## Thame Farming Club Talk

Thame Farming Club are holding a meeting at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame starting at 7pm on Thursday 11th November, Evan is the guest speaker who will give a talk on the "Life of a Vet".

A two course meal will be provided at a cost of £18.00 per person.

Please email Jane Nixey - [thamefarmingclub@gmail.com](mailto:thamefarmingclub@gmail.com) if you would like to attend.

## Vitamin D For Alpacas

Alpacas in their natural South American environment will be exposed to much higher levels of UV light compared to the UK. Since removing them from their natural sunny environment they now have a lack of UV exposure during winter months. It is therefore important to supplement Vitamin D to prevent poor calcified bones similar to those seen in human Rickets disease.

- Younger, growing animals will require up to three doses (November, January, March)
- All animals should be given one dose in November.
- Pregnant females should receive two doses in November and January.

Vitamin D can be given by injection - please give us a call to discuss.

## Avian Influenza

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone has come into force as of 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This means it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers to follow strict biosecurity measures to protect their birds from avian influenza – but currently there is no requirement to keep birds housed.

Some tips:

- Keep areas clean and tidy, humanely control rodents.
- Place food and water in enclosed areas protected from wild birds
- Keep birds separate from wildlife by fencing around their outdoor areas

Please get in touch for any further advice

## Grazing root crops

Root crops such as turnips and kale can provide an excellent source of feed for animals through the winter months. However, there are a few health issues that can arise, so here are a few top tips for preventing problems:

- Review your mineral supplementation - root crops can cause iodine deficiency, which affects fertility and causes stillbirths. They can also predispose to milk fever and other deficiencies at calving time, so take particular care with pregnant animals.
- Ensure that there is also a good source of fibre available - hay, straw or silage bales should make up at least 30% of the diet
- Wait until the root crop is mature before turning stock onto it - immature root crops can cause photosensitisation, especially in younger animals and those with white skin or patches
  - Try and introduce the diet change gradually, and ensure animals don't gorge themselves on roots when they are first introduced - this can result in digestive upsets and bloat
- Due to the increased bare ground in these crops, animals are at an increased risk of contracting Clostridial diseases such as Black leg and Pulpy kidney. Ensure that all animals going onto root crops have had a full course of clostridial vaccination, e.g. Bravoxin for cattle or Heptavac P for sheep.

## Red Tractor Changes



New Red Tractor updates came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> November:

- All farms must have an annual herd health plan instead of 18 monthly
- All farms must have a health and safety policy
- Use of analgesia is now mandatory for castration, disbudding, dehorning and removal of supernumerary teats
- Focus on dairy breeding protocols in relation to eliminating routine calf euthanasia
- Beef BVD action plan required by October 2022
- At least one person must have undertaken medicine training on beef and sheep farms.

Don't forget we are running monthly group medicine courses at the practice!

- 16<sup>th</sup> November @ 5:30pm FULLY BOOKED
- 8<sup>th</sup> December @ 5:30pm FULLY BOOKED

Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets



NorCal Vets

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### New computer system

We have now changed over to a new computer system, please bear with us while we all adjust!

\* This may mean that you receive 2 separate invoices for October\*