

Request - Animals in ready

Just a reminder that we need to have animals ready either in a small pen/enclosure or crush (if appropriate). Rarely can we perform a full clinical exam and reach the correct diagnosis/safely administer medicines out in a field. Unfortunately, in future (depending on circumstances of course!) time will have to be charged for time taken if a prearranged time is agreed and animals have yet to be brought in.

Ram Vasectomies

Vasectomised rams (teasers) are a really useful tool for ensuring a successful sheep breeding season. Teasers are particularly useful for:

- Early lambing flocks, to encourage ewes to start cycling early in the season
- Ewe lambs, to encourage them to start cycling before the rams are introduced
- Teasers can also be used to synchronize ewes at the start of the breeding season

To be safe to use without risk of unwanted pregnancy, teasers need to be vasectomised a **minimum** of 6 weeks before they are introduced to the ewes, so the sooner you can get them done the better!

Most rams or well grown ram lambs are suitable to be vasectomised - when choosing them consider that although they aren't serving ewes, you are investing in them for the future and their effect relies on them behaving and interacting like rams. It's therefore important to pick sound sheep with good teeth and feet, and adequate bodyweight and testicular size.

Finally, it is advisable to permanently identify (e.g. management tag) teasers as the time of surgery - this will help to avoid the chance of any mix-ups that could be costly!

TBAS - TB Advisory Service



We are pleased to let you all know that Becca and Kathriona have completed their TBAS training and can now come out on farm (free of charge) and discuss TB in relation to your farm if you are currently experiencing a breakdown and especially prevent one.

It involves two visits about six months apart. The initial visit depending on the individual farm takes between 2-4 hours and will include discussions about TB, wildlife ecology, biosecurity, building design, movements and trading options bespoke to your business. This is separate to the other past TB scheme and it does not matter if you have previously had a visit.

Although the visit is for TB it would also be a good time to discuss other issues that have been missed - much like your herd health plan!

Free Faecal Egg Counts for First Season Grazers - Cattle only

For the 2022 grazing season, APHA and MRI are running a project to investigate resistance or reduced efficacy to white wormers in *Ostertagia ostertagi* (Oo) in cattle in England and Wales.

Fresh samples are requested from first season grazers (+/- *second season that did not graze much the previous year) which have been out at pasture for at least four-to-six weeks.

The sampled animals should be either untreated or not been treated for at least two weeks. Samples must be taken from ideally 10 animals (minimum 5).

Please let us know if you would like to take part and drop in some samples.

Reminder - Submit Dead Badgers for Southern Edge badger bTB project

We have been asked to inform you all that the badger project has been extended to April 2023 - unfortunately target submission numbers have not been reached and there is a particular need for carcasses from Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Please pop in and pick up a collection kit, but if you do come across a carcass without having a kit, please double bag it and drop it into the practice.

To ensure that we receive as many carcasses as possible in a fit condition to be useful, particularly given the warmer spring weather we are now experiencing please ensure that the main body of the badger is intact and the carcass is as fresh as possible.

Flies - New Forest Eye

With the hot weather and arrival of the flies we have been seeing and being asked about eye problems in cattle almost daily at the moment. Prevention is key so if you haven't done so already it's advisable to apply a fly prevention product. Please check the box though as there is varying persistence (4-8 weeks!!) between some commonly used products e.g. Spot on and Butox Swish. Also please read the instructions carefully as not all products are applied in the same way.

Cattle affected with New Forest Eye show tear staining, closing the affected eye and progress to ulceration of the cornea leading to eventual scarring and blindness. Affected cattle should be treated with Alamyacin LA 300/Engemyacin and an anti-inflammatory: Emdocam/Meloxidyl. You can also use eye tubes such as Orbenin or Opticlox.

Flies can also spread summer mastitis between cows at grass - another reason to get on top of them.

David Morris and family have asked us to inform clients of the passing of Peter Morris, a well-respected local sheep & cattle farmer from Brill.

The memorial service will be on 9th June @ 3pm, Chilton Church



Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets



Summer sheep/smallholder workshop – details coming soon..

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Puppy Wanted

One of our clients is looking for a Norfolk Terrier puppy - either sex. If you have one for sale or are expecting a litter in the near future, please give us a call and we will put you in touch with them.