

Upcoming Events

Smallholder Lambing Workshop

Wed 8th Feb 11am-3pm @ Farm between Bicester & Thame

£80 including lunch and refreshments (£40 deposit required at time of booking)

A practical on-farm lambing workshop, hosted by our vets Becca and Kathriona, which will be an ideal hands-on experience with demonstrations and opportunities to participate.

Topics will include:

- Essentials to have to hand for lambing time
- Pre-lambing ewe nutrition, essential vaccinations
- Common issues and how to treat them
- Knowing how and when to intervene during a lambing
- Care of the lamb and basic procedures (eg ringing, navel dipping etc)

Last few places remaining! Please call or email the office to book your place.

Suckler Herd Meeting

Wed 15th Feb 7-8:30pm @ Chinnor RFC, Thame OX9 3JL

Evan will be hosting a talk discussing:

- Suckler cow nutrition
- Pre and post calving
- The new Defra Animal Health and Welfare Pathway Scheme
- Interest in setting up a new Suckler Discussion group

The bar will be open and hot drinks also available.

Open to all suckler clients, please contact office if you're interested in attending.

Red Tractor Medicine Course

**Wed 22nd Feb 6pm @ Office
(approx. 1hr, drink and snacks provided) £35+VAT**

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 – *attendance on this course is now necessary for to pass your farm assurance inspection so if you have an upcoming inspection and haven't attended the course please get in touch!*

Thame & Chinnor TB Steering update and meeting

31st January 6.30pm- 8.30pm @ Thame Market

Email oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk to receive project updates including monthly newsletters direct to your inbox or share your mobile number to receive text alerts about upcoming events.

Propylene Glycol now available for Twin Lamb Disease

After difficulties sourcing effective treatment for twin lamb disease after Ketosaid joined the expanding list of products being discontinued we are now stocking 2.5L bottles of Propylene Glycol. Affected ewes require 100ml which can be repeated in 6 hours in clinical cases and continued for up to 5 days.

Remember who is most at risk of Twin Lamb Disease: twin and triplet bearing ewes who have increased energy demands as well as physically not having the abdominal space to eat enough due to the size of the growing multiple lambs. Death (of the unborn lambs as well as the ewe) can happen in as little as twelve hours if not picked up on early enough. Look out for pregnant ewes separating themselves from the rest of the flock, not coming up for feed and especially displaying nervous/neurological signs.

Preparing for Spring Calving - Vaccinating for Calf Scours

With many of you preparing for the start of Spring calving it may be beneficial to have a think about whether you had many cases of scours in calves in Spring or last year. Scour is one of the most common causes of death in calves less than one month old and pregnant cattle can be vaccinated against rotavirus, coronavirus and E.coli (K99) from 12 until 3 weeks prior to calving.

This is especially a good idea for those of you which have a history of scour problems. Calves who have gut damage from scours will not achieve the same daily growth rates and will take longer to reach your weight targets.

Antibodies produced by the cow from the vaccine will be stored in her colostrum and will be passed to the calf in the colostrum at their first feed - it is important to note that antibodies produced by the cow or heifer will not transfer to the calf before birth. Therefore, it is again vital to follow the 1,2,3 rule and ensure that in the **1st 2 hours** a calf receives at least **3 litres** of good quality colostrum as the ability of the calves' gut to absorb antibodies begins to decrease from 2 hours after birth.

Vaccination does not protect against cryptosporidium however calves with who have a co-infection with crypto and rota or coronavirus are severely more affected. If scours are an issue, it is always worth the cost to collect samples for us to test to identify the cause and best treatment and prevent infections once the other calves hit the ground.

Please give us a call to discuss vaccinating against scour or how to effectively deal with an outbreak of scours should one occur.

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

Farmers receiving BPS (this will be opened for non-BPS in the future) can start to apply in January - date is yet to be confirmed. We will continue to update you once the scheme has officially launched later this month and will be discussed at the Suckler Herd Meeting in February.

The pathway will involve a vet visit to your farm looking at the health and welfare of animals, there is no checklist this will simply be a conversation on farm with recommendations on what can be improved. As part of the pathway there is mandatory testing - BVD bloods for sucklers, bulk milk testing for dairy and Faecal Egg Counts pre and post worming for sheep.

Any farms with more than 10 cattle or 20 sheep can apply. There will also be small and large grants available to co-fund equipment, technology and infrastructure to improve health and welfare.

Issues with supply of Iodine 10%

There is a risk of reduced availability/high cost of strong iodine for navel dressing this spring. This has arisen due to production ceasing at the main source in Chile. Lower iodine concentrations (below 7%) may be available, but these are less effective at drying and disinfecting the navels of newborn lambs.

To prevent joint ill and other bacteraemic conditions it is vitally important to ensure an adequate supply of quality colostrum through management of the body condition and nutrition of pregnant ewes and provide a clean and dry lambing environment. It is not appropriate to use tetracycline antibiotic sprays for treating the navels of neonatal lambs – they do not dry them very effectively and it is an unnecessary use of antibiotics.

Further information is available to read at: <https://sheepvetsoc.org.uk/news/supply-of-strong-iodine-10-for-navel-dressing-of-neonatal-lambs/> and <https://www.fwi.co.uk/livestock/sheep/expert-advice-for-lambing-amid-iodine-shortage>

NorCal Vets

Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets



Unit 2 Rycote Lane Farm, Rycote Lane
Milton Common, Thame
Oxfordshire OX9 2NZ

01844 260 616 thame@norcalvets.co.uk

Accommodation wanted

1 bed flat/annexe near Thame, please contact office if anyone knows of anywhere available.