

Game Bird meeting

Date tbc April @Chinnor Rugby Club

Talk hosted by George Davis, Chairman of the GFA discussing Avian Flu regulations

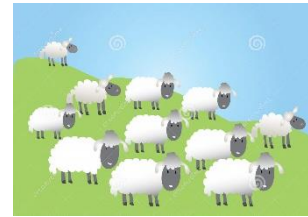
With speakers including:

- Evan David, NorCal: Discussing Avian Flu clinical signs & Tb in deer
- A representative from Aim to Sustain
- A representative from Thames Valley Police Rural Crime Team

Further details to follow

Sheep Flock Meeting

We are planning a meeting for our sheep clients to be held in May – keep an eye out for further details!



Lambing workshop



Our lambing workshop held at a local farm was a great success with some of the ewes doing as we asked and lambing whilst we were there. There were also opportunities for everyone to practice ringing and other basic husbandry procedures. We will repeat this workshop next spring and also intend to hold another workshop in the basics for smallholders with alpacas, sheep and goats in the summertime. (Becca & Kathriona)

Suckler Herd Meeting



Thank you to all who attended the talk on suckler cow nutrition. We have had a strong response to farmers joining the suckler group. The aim of the group is for farmers to learn from each other about different types of suckler systems, maximising profits and minimising losses.

We aim as a group to have 2 meetings a year. One in the summer which will take place on a farm for a walk round to look at stock and forage and possibly involve a talk with an outside speaker and the second in January/February time where we will look at the anonymous fertility data from the different farms and compare and discuss the results.

With this in mind group members will be sent out a sheet to collect data from this spring calving time and I will also be looking for volunteers to host the first summer meeting. So keep an eye out for an email shortly. Evan

If you are interested in signing up please email/call the office or let one of the team know.

Products for Calving

Dopram V

We have a product in stock which can be used immediately after a difficult calving or section to stimulate calves to begin breathing. Give us a call to discuss whether it would be beneficial for you to have some on hand.

Immucol Platinum Colostrum

Just a reminder that we stock Immucol Platinum Colostrum. A 2016 study found that Immucol Platinum gave the highest IgG level per recommended feed of the 14 UK available colostrum supplements. With all the focus now on ensuring lambs get the best start as Spectam is now discontinued its important not to forget about your calves!

Sensiblex

Sensiblex is a drug which you can administer by intramuscular infection to promote dilation of the soft tissues of the birth canal and cervix around the time of calving and lambing. This is particularly useful for heifers who have not slacked (10ml) or ewes with ringwomb (2-3 ml) in addition to calcium. It generally takes about 15-30 minutes to have an effect.

Mederantil

We have started to use our new product Mederantil with great success on farm. This injection must be given by intravenous injection and stimulates the hunger centre in the brain of the calf and makes it start sucking. Please let us know if you have a calf that needs repeatedly tubing.

Animal Health & Welfare Pathway

At the Suckler Herd meeting Becca also discussed and explained the new Animal Health and Welfare Review pathway.

A reminder that applications are now open at: <https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply>

Please speak to one of us before registering to maximise timings as the review must be done within 6 months of registering. This is a chance for you to have a vet out to talk/look at anything you are concerned about or would like to improve on and the cost is covered!

Reminder of annual visit required for antibiotics

Around lambing time, we often find clients requesting antibiotics despite us not having seen their flock/farm/smallholding within the last 12 months. This is most commonly smallholders with smaller flocks.

Unfortunately, it is a requirement that we have seen your animals within the last year in order to dispense antibiotics – please get in touch if you need to book in a flock visit or simply to bring one of your animals into us to be able to comply with the requirement.

Drugs at Thame Market

A reminder that we are happy to arrange for drugs to be dropped off at Thame Market on Fridays for clients to collect. Please ensure you have arranged this with us by contacting the office by Thursday at the latest to allow time for any drugs to be ordered in. Many thanks.



FlockCheck 2023



MSD are running their annual FlockCheck Bloods for antibodies for Toxoplasma and Enzootic abortions in ewes. These bloods should be targeted at 6 to 8 ewes post lambing who have aborted or are barren at lambing. The scheme is available from 1st February until 30th June 2023 and is open for flocks of 100 or more breeding ewes and the cost of lab testing is covered. Please mark any suitable ewes at lambing time and give us a call to discuss/arrange bloods.

A reminder on what to do if abortions occur:

- Practise extremely good personal hygiene
- All aborting ewes should be immediately separated for at least three weeks (time for vaginal discharge to cease)
- Keep aborted fetuses and any placenta to send off. Give us a call.
- Ill ewes should be treated with antibiotics (generally Trymox LA) and anti-inflammatories (Emdocam) and fluids if necessary. Always call to check if unsure.
- Mark any ewes for blood sampling later
- Do not foster any ewe lambs you intend to keep as replacements onto aborted ewes.
- Consider vaccination for the following year - here bloods/tests on aborted lambs can identify the problem in your flock and guide vaccination accordingly.

Heptavac issues - again!

As we're sure you are all aware there are issues with the availability of Heptavac-P Plus again this year. Alternative products are available which contain similar components to Heptavac P Plus including Bravoxin (similarly current supply issues!), Covexin 8 or 10 and Ovivac - P. Please give one of us a call to discuss which would suit best as they are all slightly different.

If no alternative can be sourced pregnant ewes should be prioritised particularly first time lambers and gimmers. If the pregnancy booster is delayed and given to the ewe later than the 4-6 week period prior to lambing, be aware that this will protect the ewe however will provide a limited or unknown level of protection to the lamb via colostrum. Also consider the stress of gathering ewes very close to lambing. Post lambing lambs should then be prioritised as much as possible with lambs needing their first dose of vaccine from 3 weeks of age and then another 4-6 weeks later.

Please be aware that there are also issues with the supply of Lambivac – please get in touch if you need any advice.

Electrolyte Treatment of Scouring Lambs

Rehydion gel is designed to be fed with milk or if an animal is suckling, given directly into the mouth and the lamb is allowed to return to the dam, so minimising stress. Rehydion gel addresses the issues of electrolyte imbalances effectively whilst allowing recovery, repair and growth to continue as the lamb is still receiving milk.

It has been recognised for a number of years that removal of milk from scouring animals does not encourage recovery. Continued milk feeding allows all of the benefits of milk, especially its high energy levels, to be utilised by the scouring animal to start repairing the gut damage.

One bottle of Rehydion Gel (£27.79 ex Vat) = 160 feeds (2ml per feed). Feed each lamb 2 times a day until scour stops. It is important to note that the animals will continue to scour until the gut is healed, so they may appear clinically well, but still have loose faeces.

APHA – Request to register birds

If you keep over 50 birds it is compulsory for them to be registered with APHA. However due to the ongoing Avian Flu outbreak APHA are now requesting that all keepers register their flock regardless of size.

By registering:

- APHA will be able to contact you if there is a disease outbreak (such as avian flu) in your area
- You'll help prevent the spread of disease and protect the national poultry flock

You'll need the following information to complete the form:

- Your contact details and the contact details for the person or company that owns or rents your site
- The location where you keep poultry
- Details of the birds you keep (species, number and what you keep them for)

If possible, send your application by email to customer.registration@apha.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can call on 03000 200 301 and apply over the phone.

Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/poultry-including-game-birds-registration-rules-and-forms>

Surveys

NSA Sheep Worrying survey

For the past 10 years NSA has gathered data from UK sheep farmers on the major problem of sheep worrying. To continue to raise awareness and find ways of improving education, guidance and cooperation NSA is now inviting UK sheep farmers to contribute to the survey that will remain open from now until Wednesday 15th March 2023. The survey can be completed by visiting www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/sheepworrying2023.

Moredun Veterinary Medicine Use survey

The Moredun Research Institute, in collaboration with Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), are looking for beef farmers across the UK to take part in a survey investigating patterns of veterinary medicine use in UK beef cattle. The project aims to understand patterns of veterinary medicine use in beef cattle and work out how treatments are linked to animal performance. The survey will be on-going for approximately two years with farmers welcome to sign up any time. For further information please contact adam.hayward@moredun.ac.uk.

New Facebook Page

We have recently launched a new Facebook page – where we will keep you updated with any NorCal updates and news. Please like/follow/leave us a review!

NorCal Vets

Farm, Smallholder & Game Birds

Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets

Facebook @ NorCal Veterinary Services



Cattle accommodation wanted!

Jenni is looking for a barn with field suitable to fit up to 30/40 head of show cattle. Ideally max 20 mins from Grendon Underwood
Please contact Jenni on 07542 941022 if you can help

(The barn will need to be used year-round as the cattle will be in and out during the year and can't mix with any other cattle as they are part of a high health scheme)

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Oxfordshire OX9 2NZ

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