

## Farm Walk 14<sup>th</sup> September



In September we held our first beef benchmarking meeting - a farm walk at FAI Farms in Wytham. We had over 40 clients attend and were given a tour of the farm by the farm manager. It was an example of how regenerative farming can be used and following this we had a pneumonia talk from Zoetis. Evan cooked up a great BBQ and we hope everyone felt ok the next day. 😊

Please can anyone who has not already done so return their beef benching forms to Rebecca. Our next meeting will be in the New Year to go through the results.

## Oxfordshire Bovine TB Cluster Project news

*Free evening of expert talks:*

*Thursday 23rd November 6.30pm-9.00pm at the Chinnor Rugby Club, Rectory Pavilion, Kingsey Road, Thame, OX9 3JL*

Food and drink are provided, and talks will cover:

- Future cattle vaccination
- APHA tests for bTB (including eligibility and breakdown management)
- Private testing (Enferplex)
- and more!

For more information and to book your place (RSVP required) please email by 10th November: [oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk).

The latest Cluster newsletter can be found on our website, and if you would like to sign up to receive the newsletter/any updates directly please email [oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk](mailto:oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk).

## Vaccinations Before Winter Housing

Now that we are entering a risk period for pneumonia some of you may be thinking about vaccinating for pneumonia. Stress is one of the biggest predisposing factors to cattle developing pneumonia and housing is one of the most major stressors on cattle especially if there is mixing of different groups and changes in diet. While labour wise, it is easier to give the second dose of vaccine at housing it is important to consider that calves/cattle will not be fully protected until at least two weeks into the housing period.

Please call one of the vets to discuss a vaccine plan in advance of housing.

## 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.

## New dispensing rules – dogs

New rules from the RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) came into effect on the 1st of September which will affect those of you who routinely buy flea/wormer for your working dogs. We will need to have recently seen any dogs receiving treatments from us in order to dispense any medication. Please speak to one of us if you have any questions.

## Booking in TB tests

We have noticed that many of you are yet to book in your TB tests. With the diary starting to fill up please contact the office asap so we can offer you your preferred date and please also mention any other jobs to be done that specifically require a vet.

## Sign up forms on website

We now have sign up buttons on our website to allow you to quickly register your interest in the Animal Health and Welfare Review Pathway, TBAS visits and our Beef Benchmarking Suckler Group.

It would be great if you could use these to let us know if you have signed up/are interested in doing so.

## Medication updates

- **Pen & Strep** – temporary manufacturing issue, should be back in stock by end October
- **Cyclo Spray** – 422ml is currently discontinued, being replaced by 400ml but no due date yet
- **Trichoben (ringworm vaccine)**—we have some short-dated stock, if you are interested in purchasing at a reduced price please get in touch

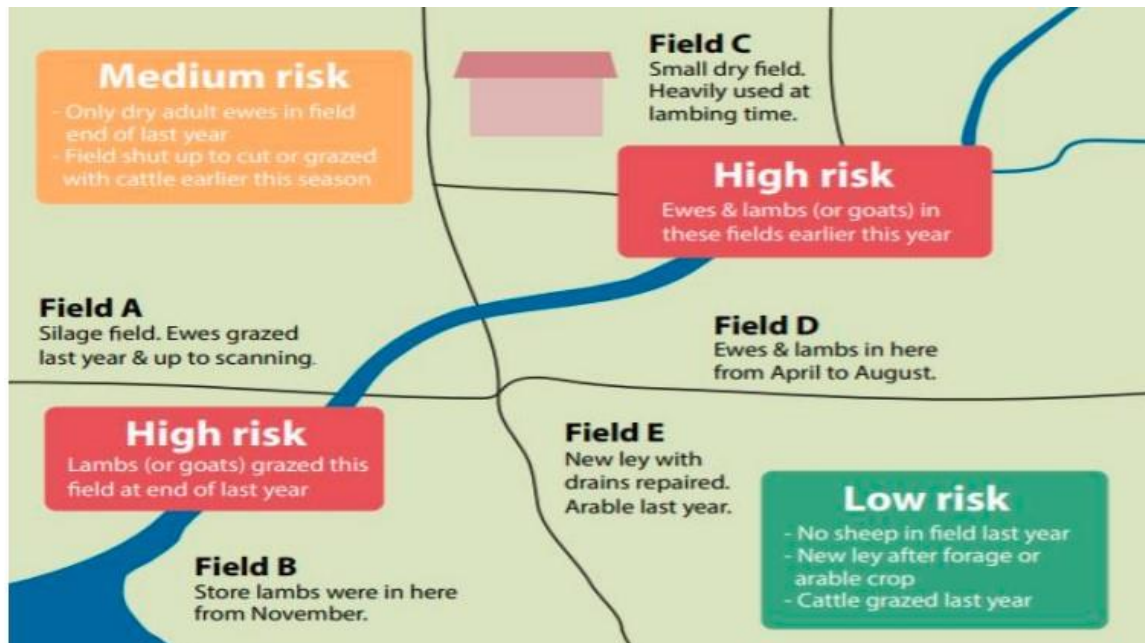
## CTS update consultation

Defra are running a consultation on updating the current CTS system which will be open for 8 weeks from 21 September to 15 November 2023. <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/bovine-id-and-traceability-policy-team/changes-to-bovine-identification-registration-and/consultation/>

The consultation asks for views in relation to the following areas: • Simplifying the regulations, • A fairer and more proportionate enforcement system • Bovine Electronic Identification (BeID) • Future of holding registers • Removing passports for cattle fitted with BeID • Movements • Paperless processes • Late registration of calves.

They are particularly interested to hear from those who may be directly affected by the proposals, including, but not limited to livestock keepers, farmers, livestock markets, abattoirs, collection centres, fallen stock operators, trade associations, ear tag suppliers, and hauliers, as well as non-governmental organisations with an interest in cattle.

## Pasture Rotation & Worms



Records and notes should be made during the year to estimate contamination levels for each field. This will allow you to make more informed grazing choices as to where to put certain groups e.g. ewes vs weaned lambs. The diagram above is a quick way to judge pasture risk.

This can also be used to try to find ways to “clean up” high risk fields or to alternatively use them as turn out fields for bought in sheep who have received a quarantine dose. This will ensure rapid reinfection from susceptible worms already on your farms therefore diluting any eggs from surviving worms and help prevent “buying in” resistant worms. With this comes the importance of regular FECs. For example, fields grazed for a short period of time by sheep with high FECs may have a higher contamination than fields grazed for a longer period of time with sheep with very low FECs so risk will vary.

Identifying management strategies which avoid high risk pastures in spring for young lambs is key. It is important to note that grazing by mature ewes to “clean up” high risk pastures does not affect the *Nematodirus* risk the following spring as the majority of *Nematodirus* infective larvae remain fully developed in their eggs in the soil until the spring temps increase sufficiently to allow them to hatch.

Mixed grazing if possible is an effective method of reducing pasture contamination as we have seen this summer from some of you bringing in lamb samples from lambs grazed alongside cattle. Parasite species infecting sheep are largely different to those infecting cattle. This also reduces the stocking density of sheep so eggs are deposited over a larger area. Cattle similarly to mature ewes will “hoover up” a proportion of the larvae as they graze further reducing contamination. At times however this strategy can obviously be difficult as due to sheep and cattle requiring different sward lengths which may introduce a nutritional stress.

Additionally a large percentage of infective larvae on pasture at any time remains in the soil and not on the herbage. Therefore cattle and ewes will only remove the proportion found on the herbage and although will lower pasture contamination and the risk to lambs following on from ewes will not be cleaned completely.

NorCal Vets

Farm, Smallholder & Game Birds

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