

## Thame Market Primestock Show - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

NorCal are proud to support the show, and to encourage participants we will offer a half price callout and time to cover premovement testing for any animal entered into the show. Good luck to all involved and we look forward to seeing you there.

### **SUPREME CHAMPION BEAST**

**£500**

With the 'Vale of Aylesbury Cattle' Challenge Cup

Kindly sponsored by Norcal Vets

**Restricted to entries in Classes 1-4**



### **THAME FARMERS AUCTION MART LTD**

**\*\*BACK WITH A BANG FOR  
2023\*\***

**THAME WITH THE VALE OF AYLESBURY  
CHRISTMAS PRIMESTOCK SHOW**

**FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**SHOW DINNER**

**7PM, BRADMOOR FARM**

Tickets £42.50/head, please contact  
[charlotte@thame-market.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@thame-market.co.uk) to book or  
call me in the office.

Final date for booking tickets is Friday 24<sup>th</sup>  
November, payment must be made before  
this date to secure your table.

## Housing Cattle Preparation

With housing approaching it will be a convenient time to have a sort out and get any jobs done that have been neglected while at grass.

### *Minerals*

Although mineral blocks and licks are very convenient studies have shown that intakes between cattle are extremely variable with some animals consuming nothing and others consuming excessive quantities due to palatability differences. Another important point to consider is the dangers of attraction of lick buckets to badgers. Oral drenches are cheap options however the body is unable to store trace elements such as cobalt and iodine. For this reason, we generally consider boluses to be the best option for the majority of our farms. Any issues can be detected by blood sampling a few (approximately five cows and calves) to determine whichever product will have the best impact.

### *Lameness*

Any overgrowth or other issues will only become worse when housed so cattle should be inspected now to see if corrections need to be made.

### *Worms/Fluke*

Housing is a perfect time to worm to “clear out” animals of worms they have picked up whilst at grass. While it may seem like a good idea to use a combination product at housing to kill fluke and worms, fluke products have no persistence and you need to wait a number of weeks after housing before treating for fluke to ensure that it removes all of the life stages. As an example, Closamectin pour on is a product we see being used frequently. The flukacide in this product will only kill fluke from 7 weeks of age. Therefore, any fluke picked up just before housing will not be killed on that day. From a money saving point of view - the flukacide part is many more times expensive than the wormer therefore a cheaper wormer only product at housing time is a much better option. It is best to wait until seven weeks after housing and then treat again seven weeks later. While triclabendazole products will treat most stages of fluke it is one of the only products left - this product should be strictly left to treat cases of adult fluke especially in sheep because of the widespread resistance we are seeing.

In cattle we recommend a clear wormer at housing time due to its ability to kill dormant stages of Ostertagia - a stomach worm which is often reactivated in late housing and can cause serious clinical signs and death.

### Veterinary Declarations – new regulations

For any clients that are not part of Farm Assurance Schemes (e.g. Red Tractor) please contact the office/one of the vets before December for us to issue you with a Veterinary Attestation form.

This can be emailed/posted or collected in person from the office.

Please note we will require your CPH number and for you to have had a visit from us in the last 12 months.



- From **13th December 2023**, all producers selling livestock for slaughter will require Veterinary Attestation to certify exports of Products of Animal Origin to the EU
- You may not be planning on exporting but often a significant proportion of a carcass will likely be exported, including the “5th quarter” and cuts not used in the UK
- After **13th December 2023**, farmers will need to quote their unique reference number, gained from the completion of their Attestation Document, on all market entry forms.
- You will need a signed declaration from your vet, for every holding number, to confirm the visit has taken place. This will need to be done at least once over a 12 month period and can be combined with any other routine veterinary visit.
- If you already participate in a qualifying assurance scheme, you don't need to complete the veterinary declaration as membership of farm assurance schemes is accepted as evidence that you meet the requirements – including **Red Tractor and the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway**.

## Tup Watch!

A lot of you have already put your tups in or are planning to in the next couple of weeks and will have given them their MOT and ensured they are fit to work.

However, it's important now to keep an eye on them over the next few weeks with the ewes and watch their behaviour. Libido is an essential breeding factor but one that is not covered when physically examining them or semen testing.

Although your rams may have been semen tested it is only a sample from a particular day from the ram and fertility can change and be affected by factors occurring after the day of the semen test. Rattles can be a simple way to detect returns and spot issues and help guide investigations as to if it is a tup or ewe problem.

Lameness is a big factor for tups. Pain and discomfort will lead to reluctance to follow a ewe and in particular mount her. Semen quality can also be affected by the inflammation associated with lameness. For this reason, please treat any lame ram promptly with anti-inflammatories and topical/injectable antibiotics as required or give us a call to discuss a lame tup.

Another often disregarded point to consider is poorly fitted or tight rattle harnesses. These can sometimes rub causing sores under the rams' front legs - causing poorer libido. Check for any issues when changing over rattles and ensure they are not too tight when fitting on the tup.

Finally keep an eye on body condition during this time. Rams who have lost a lot of condition will require additional feeding and/or fewer ewes.

## Bluetongue Outbreak in Europe

Many of you may have heard there has been a new emerging strain of bluetongue in Europe over the past few months.

Bluetongue is a viral disease transmitted by biting midges affecting all ruminants (e.g., sheep, cattle, goats and deer) and camelids (e.g., alpacas and llamas).

As of October, over 700 farms in the Netherlands have reported the virus and has spread to Belgium. There are currently no reported cases in the UK but due to its ability to spread via infected midges there is of course a risk of it spreading to the UK.

The new strain BTV-3 appears to mimic BTV-8 however is not covered by the existing BTV-8 serotype vaccine therefore we need to remain cautious as to the risk it presents. It will be difficult to control an outbreak here were it to occur with it being vector borne obviously making the control of spread extremely concerning.

Symptoms can vary with sheep generally showing more obvious clinical signs. These can include drooling, mouth lesions, high fever, lameness, swollen heads and sudden death. Cattle are not usually as severely affected but can show the same symptoms as well as teat, eye, coronary band and nose lesions.

We will keep you all updated with any updates but please remain vigilant with monitoring livestock and prioritising biosecurity as always with any infectious disease.



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



the voice of British farming



## Oxfordshire TB Cluster Pilot Evening

Join the **Thame-Chinnor cluster group** for a **new, free**  
evening of expert talks

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November

Arrival from 6.15pm, for prompt start from 6.30pm-9.00pm

Chinnor Rugby Club, Rectory Pavilion, Kingsey Road, Thame, OX9 3JL



**Expert talks** covering:



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

**Food and drink** provided



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

NSA Lambing List open to both members and students



The NSA Lambing List is now open online for members to submit details of their lambing placements for the 2023/2024 lambing season as well as students seeking placements next year. Visit [www.nationalsheep.org.uk/lambing-list](http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/lambing-list) to input your requirements for this year. On the NSA website you will also find guidance notes on hosting students for lambing work experience.

NorCal Vets

Farm, Smallholder & Game Birds

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