

NorCal has had yet another great year thanks to all your support. Our AI service continues to grow, with us now seeing some of the lovely calves produced! We've also got to know our new clients even better this past year through setting up our new beef benchmarking club as well as putting on a successful sheep farmer meeting to highlight many flock health issues.

Look out for many more meetings next year and we hope to get to know everyone even better!

Thank you for all your support and patience this year, myself and all the team appreciate that you trust us with your business and fingers crossed that 2024 brings better weather and better livestock prices than ever!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!  
Evan



### Beef Benchmarking Club

Thank you to all our beef clients that have decided to get involved in our beef benchmarking club. Our farm walk back in September was a huge success with a great turnout from all of you - even if Evan was on BBQ duty!

We will be hosting our winter meeting in the New Year to go over all the data collected from yourselves.

Please can anyone not already given in their questionnaire do so by the **first week of January 2024**. Either email it for the attention of Becca or hand it in to the office. Any questions please give us a call.

### TB cluster group/ TBAS

Unfortunately, as many of you know this year has been worse for TB than ever before with a lot more farms experiencing breakdowns. Most recently the Thame/Chinnor cluster group hosted a TB information meeting that had a very successful turnout and had some great feedback. Now more than ever we all need to use all the tools in the box to tackle TB and we will continue to help and support you all as much as possible to do this. TBAS is one such tool that we hope to see many more of you utilise this next year as it is free of charge and just needs some of your time when convenient for you.

### Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

We have had a lot of success with the animal health and welfare pathway scheme set up by the government for the next three years to provide funding for BVD testing in cattle and post-drench efficacy testing in sheep. For those of you who haven't signed up already or would like more information please give us a call to advice on the best time to do it.

## Lice in Cattle

Lice in cattle causes irritation and scratching resulting in productivity losses through reduced feed intakes, poor coat quality as well as welfare issues. Lice cannot survive for more than 3-5 days without cattle to feed from. Now that cows are housed the lice can spread easily from cow to cow. Over winter long grown hair also allows them somewhere to hide. There are two types of cattle lice: biting and sucking. Differentiation is only important if you are relying on injectable clear wormers to treat lice - only sucking lice will be killed. Pour-on clear wormers as well as pour on synthetic pyrethroids will kill both sucking and biting lice.

## Watery Mouth Prevention - a reminder!

As thoughts turn to lambing once more this is just a reminder of what to do if you have a case of a watery mouth and what the best prevention is.

Firstly, ewe nutrition is vital. Having ewes in the correct condition and on the right plane of nutrition in the run up to lambing will improve colostrum production and quality and minimise lambing problems. This will increase lamb vigour at birth and make sure they receive sufficient colostrum.

Colostrum management is the single most important element in preventing watery mouth. Tube feed any lambs that you are concerned did not receive enough colostrum - lambs should receive 50 ml/kg within 2 hours of birth and 200mls/kg within the first 24 hours of life. Tubes/feeding equipment/jugs should also be well maintained - any dirt will introduce bacteria into the lambs. Scratched/damaged tubes should not be used as well as potentially internally damaging the lamb bacteria will cling to the damaged parts.

Make sure to use plenty of bedding and clean out pens between ewes in order to keep bacterial challenges low. If any ewes are scouring this is also a source of infection for naive lambs so, ensure worming if necessary is carried out. Please give us a phone call to check if you are using the most beneficial pre-lambing wormer for your ewes.

Remember who is most at risk: triplets, lambs with low birth weights, lambs from ewes with poor body condition and those who had a hard birth. It is now recommended to treat cases with amoxicillin e.g., Trymox LA rather than oxytetracyclines (Engemycin/Alamycin) due to reports coming back from labs with resistance.

Give one of us a call to chat about the best approach for your farm before problems arise.

Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets



## NorCal Vets

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### Christmas and New Year Office Opening Hours

Closed 23 December - 26 December  
Open 27-29 December 9 am until 12:30pm  
Closed 30 December – 1 January

### Thame Market December Events

Thursday 14th December RABI Carol Service –  
7pm in the main cattle ring  
Friday 15th December - Christmas Show