

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway.

For those who have already completed the AHWR Pathway you may now be eligible for an endemic disease follow up plan. To sign up for this plan you must wait 10 months from your original pathway visit. To claim funding, you must undergo the following:

Sheep AHWR

For funding of £639 you must **test for at least 1 disease/condition** from your chosen package:

- Ewe conditions: Johne's, MV, OPA, trace elements, liver fluke, haemonchosis, ewe nutrition status, mastitis, tick-borne fever, louping ill, orf, pulpy kidney.
- Reproductive performance: EAE, BD, toxoplasmosis, ewe nutrition status, trace elements, liver fluke, tick-borne fever
- Lamb performance: BD, trace elements, PGE, coccidiosis, mastitis, tick-borne fever, louping ill, tick pyaemia, lamb nutrition status, orf, pulpy kidney, lamb dysentery, pasteurellosis
- Neonatal lamb survival: BD, toxoplasmosis, joint ill, ewe nutrition status, trace elements, watery mouth, mastitis, tick pyaemia, lamb dysentery, pasteurellosis
- External parasites: Fly strike, sheep scab
- Lameness: Joint ill, lameness, foot rot, scald, CODD, granuloma, heel or toe abscess, shelly hoof, tick pyaemia

Cattle AHWR

If BVD positive on original AHWR Pathway:

- If BVD was found you must perform a hunt for all persistently infected animals in the herd and complete a BVD focused biosecurity assessment.
- This can be done by yourselves through ear tissue sampling that you bring in for us to send off or can be done by us through blood sampling.
- This will entitle you to £837 of funding

If BVD negative on original AHWR Pathway:

- If all animals were BVD negative then no further testing is required but a BVD focused biosecurity assessment must be carried out to help remain BVD free]
- This will entitle you to £215 of funding

Please contact Kathriona or Becca before you apply so we can ensure the timing is correct.

Plan ahead for Pneumonia in calves!

Thinking ahead to housing cattle it will soon be time to vaccinate calves. There are so many different pathogens and vaccine brands available therefore a one size fits all approach will not work.

Which vaccine to use:

Alongside lab results we also look at the type and age of stock wanting to be vaccinated and any risk factors that are present on your farm in order to choose the correct vaccine for your stock.

Giving the vaccine:

An important factor when administering vaccines is ensuring the correct storage, administration and timings are used. Vaccines must be kept at the correct temperature up until you inject them. Vaccines can fail to prevent clinical disease if they are given at the wrong time. Stress can greatly suppress the immune system resulting in insufficient response to the vaccine. In a calf's life there are several stress factors e.g. weaning, dehorning, castration and housing. In order to improve efficacy vaccination should be done at least two weeks before housing and weaning and no other procedures should be carried out on vaccination day.

Other control measures:

Now is also the time to think about reducing the pathogen load your calves experience this winter while inside. Ventilation plays a huge role in preventing bugs building up, however you must ensure that draughts at calf level are also prevented. Testing can be done with smoke bombs to assess how good ventilation is in the shed.

Other crucial factors such as stocking densities (over and understocking) and not mixing age groups where possible must also be considered when trying to reduce the pathogen load on your calves. Bedding up regularly and keeping a clean shed will also help reduce odours that can irritate calves respiratory systems and prevent pathogen build up.

Summary:

Vaccines are farm specific therefore the best option is to chat with your vet to discuss any historic problems on the farm to come up with a plan. We are also able to provide free nasal swabs through a drugs company when a pneumonia outbreak is present. These swabs provide the best results early in an outbreak before a secondary bacterial infection has taken hold.



Sheep Meeting in September

Last month we held a great evening at Thame Chinnor Rugby club with a lot of you sheep farmers attending to discuss worming in sheep.

We had a particular focus on preventing the buying in of resistant worms. Zoetis were there to discuss their new product Startect which is a great tool to integrate into your yearly plan.

After a lot of interest we have got a bottle of Startect in the practice which we can dispense individual doses from which we're pleased a lot of you are using since for your new tups/ewes.

Beef Benchmarking Farm Walk

Last week we held our annual beef benchmarking farm walk and BBQ, it was great to see so many of you turn up. A big thank you to the Greaves family for hosting us and showcasing their farm and beautiful cattle.

We will be sending out our survey next month for those of you who signed up ahead of the meeting in January - this year we will be sending a link through Survey Monkey which we hope will spare any confusion and streamline answers!



Bluetongue Update

With the current situation changing daily this may well be out of date information when you read this however as of the 9th of October the restriction zone now covers:

Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, City of Kingston upon Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire, East Sussex, Essex, Greater London, Hampshire (part), Hertfordshire, Kent, Leicestershire (part), Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire (part), Nottinghamshire, Suffolk, Surrey and West Sussex.

Additional cases have been detected in Yorkshire and Cornwall which were traced back to animals moved before restriction zones were in place for Suffolk. These animals were humanely culled to prevent spread and other animals on the holding will be routinely tested.

An interactive map displaying where the current restriction zones are can be found on the APHA website:

<https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=514ec88edec74575958d860f0196d2ea>

Three vaccines have been authorised for use. Advice and plans will vary farm to farm therefore please contact one of the vets to make a plan for your farm.

NorCal Vets

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