

Newsletter



September 2025

Beef Benchmarking Farm Walk!

Beef Benchmarking is back for another year which many of you will have received emails about. We have organised another farm walk, the details of which are below:

Date and Time: Thursday 11th September 2025 at 3pm

Location: Creslow Manor, Creslow, HP22 4EH

We will be having a BBQ again and talking about youngstock health.

We will also be sending out the Beef Benchmarking Questionnaire after the meeting for you all to fill out.

Please contact the office or let one of the vets know if you will be able to attend.

TBAS Farm Visits

Disappointingly, despite many of your farms being affected by TB we have had a poor uptake in the free TBAS farm advisory visits. We have been notified that these visits will no longer be available after October so there is limited time to book in your first visit.

These visits are completely free to you and involve one of the vets asking about your farm set up, the concerns you have regarding TB, and issues you may face in the future. We will then have a walk around your farm buildings and fields to better understand your current situation and identify potential areas where TB risk could be eliminated or reduced discussing why these are risks and how you can control them.

At the end of the visit we will discuss four recommendations for you to carry out.

There will be a second visit three – six months later to assess the recommendations given and discuss the costs associated with each recommendation.

Currently initial visits must be booked in before October so please contact one of the vets to get booked in.

Haemonchus Alert

We are seeing a lot of cases of Haemonchus in the area in sheep, goats and alpacas. Here are some important things to consider about this abomasal blood sucking worm:

- Ewes are affected just as severely as lambs
- Affected animals do not normally scour unless they are infected with other parasites
- The main clinical signs are anaemia (shown by pale mucous membranes), collapse and oftentimes just sudden death.
- Less acute cases will appear like fluke - weight loss, bottle jaw and lethargy
- 5000 haemonchus are capable of drinking 250ml of blood daily while each female worm is capable of producing up to 10,000 eggs per day therefore animals can succumb to infection very quickly.

We are now able to speciate Haemonchus eggs from other strongyle type eggs in the practice so please bring a faecal sample in to test.

Please contact us for advice if you suspect a Haemonchus burden in your animals.

Bluetongue Update

We are continuing to diagnose cases in sheep and are awaiting a result in a beef heifer. Please continue to monitor your animals and speak to one of the vets to discuss vaccination.

Animal Health and Welfare Review Follow Up

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.

Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets.

NorCal Vets



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