

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER

Yearly Health Review

Many of you have been asking for a health plan or antibiotic review, usually prompted by a visit from the red tractor assurance.

We offer a Yearly Health Review which tries to steer away from the box ticking monotony of forms and into a useful assessment of the previous year. We aim to focus on the areas which have done well last year whilst highlighting weak areas and proposing ways to improve on them.

The Yearly Health Review includes

- A printed health plan
- An antibiotic usage review
- A disease performance review
- A yearly productivity analysis
- A parasite control guide
- A farm walk which can evaluate other areas such as housing and handling systems.

Paperwork will be sent out to your farm prior to your visit. Having as much as possible before the vet arrives will reduce time filling in the forms. All of this costs £99 ex vat with no time limit imposed (*a visit charge will be added if completed on farm*).

The earlier a review is booked in, the more beneficial it will become for yourself. Using a health review correctly is a great way to improve your farm and therefore your profitability.



BVD STAMP IT OUT - ENGLAND

Claim your **FREE*** BVD testing to find out the status of your herd. As funded by the RDPE.

Join us at:

- Wednesday 15th January - The Plough Inn, Stoke Lacy
- Wednesday 22nd January - Ledbury Rugby Club
- Thursday 23rd January - The Pilgrim Hotel, Much Birch for an informal meeting with food provided.

Booking is essential - please bring your CPH and your SBI number with you.

*First visit with blood testing (with lab fees up to the value of £61.80) Second visit to discuss results of PI hunt (with lab fees up to the value of £440 Terms and conditions apply. At least one of the above meetings must be attended to obtain the funding.

**Hereford Office: 01432 351471 - Bromyard Office: 01885 488440
Ledbury Office: 01531 806129**



Oligovet Boluses:

With Christmas on the horizon your mind may already be wandering onto what presents to buy for your nearest and dearest – but what about your cows? Well, Belmont Farm and Equine can take all that stress off your hands and suggest a great present to give your cows before calving!

The Oligovet Super Grazer Bolus supplements iodine, selenium, cobalt and copper for 8 months. These trace elements are vital for both the unborn calf and subsequent fertility for the cow returning to the bull. Thanks to the long duration; the Super Grazer Bolus can be given 2-3 months pre calving, and cover late pregnancy, calving and the following grazing season. Hence, improving the chance of a successful calving and maximising your chance of getting her back in calf!

Boluses are sold individually at £7.50/bolus Ex VAT which only works out at 3p/day! Even better, if you buy a box of 50 you get a discount to £7/bolus Ex VAT.

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Clinical Vets: Dominic Alexander · Will Allman · Mike Bellamy · Andrew Cooke · Nick Gibbon · Hannah Mitchell · Alex O'Malley · Matthew Pugh · Caroline Rank · Amelia Stevens · Harry Walby · Charlotte Watkins

TB Testers: Jacek (Jack) Andrychiewicz · Petre Balanescu · Ovidiu Mircea-Oltean · Tudor Patcas · Diego Sainz Garcia · Javier Sisamon · Krasimir (Kris) Stefanov

Support staff: Michelle Harris · Sybil Legge · Laura Langford · Alice Mainwaring · Ros O'Sullivan · Sophie Powell · Andrea Smith · Pam Strange · Harriet Turner · Millie Whitlock

Johne's disease – could this be the cause of your thin sheep?



A study in the UK last year showed that 64% of sheep flocks tested, were positive for Johne's.



Johne's in sheep can affect any breed and is mainly spread through MAP bacteria in the faeces but it can also be spread across the placenta, via milk to lambs, through grazing the same pasture as infected cattle or where slurry from infected cattle is spread and through the purchase of infected sheep which may not be showing any symptoms. MAP

bacteria are very resilient and can stay active in soil for up to 18 months.

Symptoms in sheep are often non-specific and include sheep becoming thin and dropping to a body condition score of 1.5 or less despite being well fed and having full mouths; they will often be bright and alert with a lack of response to fluke or worm treatments.

Johne's is also a true 'iceberg disease' in that for every animal showing clinical disease, there are typically 10 – 15 that have sub-clinical disease, showing no signs but which can have an ongoing impact on levels of infection.

The disease has a significant effect on the profitability of flocks due to:

- **Shorter productive life – sheep can die prematurely from 2 years of age**
- **Higher replacement costs**
- **Reduced lambing, rearing and finishing %**
- **Reduced cull ewe value**
- **Increased feed and medicine costs**
- **Loss of valuable bloodlines**

Once a flock is infected with Johne's eradication is almost impossible, so the aim is to control the disease by reducing the build-up of bacteria on the pasture and therefore transmission.

Fortunately there is a licensed vaccine available for Johne's in sheep. The vaccine, Gudair®, is a one shot lifetime vaccine and whilst vaccination won't eliminate the bacteria nor remove all an infected flock's problems overnight, it has been shown to be a very effective way of controlling Johne's and significantly reducing the impact of the disease in infected flocks alongside active management.

To minimise the risk of Johne's disease, vaccination of all replacement shearlings and sale stock with Gudair® is best practice alongside vaccination for clostridial diseases and footrot. Ideally you should aim to buy vaccinated replacements. Otherwise animals should be quarantined and vaccinated before introducing to the rest of the flock.

We stock Gudair® and recommend vaccination for replacement breeding stock. If you have any questions please contact us.

ARE YOU READY TO START LAMBING?



LAMBING SUPPLIES

EQUIPMENT

Lambing Snare
Lambing Ropes
Sterile needles and syringes
Stomach feeding tube and syringe
Lamb feeding bottle
Prolapse harness
Thermometer
Warming Box
Castration Rings
Arm length and latex gloves

DRUGS

Metacam Injection
Suitable antibiotics - please speak to a vet for advice
50% Glucose Injection
20% (blue top) Calcium injection
Ewe Go
Freeze Dried Colostrum
Rehydration liquid
Scabivax

MISCELLANEOUS

Sterilising solution for feeders/bottles
Disinfectant Solution (for pens)
Notebook (for births/treatments/deaths)
A stiff drink for the shepherd!

If you return your 500ml iodine spray bottle we will refill it at 10% off!

Out of hours

A reminder that if there is ever any difficulty in reaching the vet on call out of hours, we have a permanent answering service, Kernow, who will take your call and then go on to contact the relevant vet.

They can be reached on 01432 381440.

Find us on 

Please visit our Facebook page 'Belmont Farm & Equine Vets Limited' to keep up to date on interesting and topical practical Farm meetings over the coming months.

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