



Lanes
FARM VETS

Newsletter

March 2020

Dates for your diary:

Dairy Health Club meeting

Thursday 26th March 2020 -

Cow Signals

By kind invite of the Wannop family

Heaton Hall Farm, Heaton-with-Oxcliffe LA3 3EU

10.30am -2.30pm

Lunch provided

All dairy farmers welcome

Places are limited so call asap to reserve your place

Guest speaker Owen Atkinson will show us how to interpret common cow behaviour and physical traits to identify problem areas, and guide us through some practical solutions to solve these.

This workshop will grow your understanding of what your cows are telling you and allow you to assess their environment with a fresh perspective. See inside for more details.

Flock Health Club—calling all members!

It is always hard at this time of year to know when is the best time to organise a meeting with such varied lambing dates. Please could you let me know when you would like a meeting or whether this should be the time that I visit you individually to discuss any targets or issues you have. I appreciate how busy a time it is— whatever we can do to help, let us know. Janet.



*'A local practice committed to delivering
outstanding service'*

Green Lane Vet Centre, Garstang PR3 IPR Tel: 01995 602468

Would a treatment decision chart be useful for your team?

We have worked with a few farms recently rationalising their medicine use, usually for red tractor or supermarket contracts. It has come to light that there is often confusion and discrepancy between staff members on treatment protocols and decision making.

We can create a laminated flow chart for you (free of charge) that outlines the decision process with your personalised treatment regimes. To date we have created simple charts for mastitis treatment decisions, dry cow therapy choice, scouring calf management and common diseases treatment choice.

Please feel free to ask a vet if you feel we could help you in some way.

Milking cow tubes availability

Due to manufacturing issues of certain key ingredients of milking cow tubes we currently have a limited choice available. We do still have a good first line tube which has broad spectrum activity (Ubrolexin) and a tube which is useful for more stubborn cases (often Staphylococcal or Streptococcal—Orbenin LA). There is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates that choice of milking cow tube plays little significance in the outcome of the case—the use of anti-inflammatories and general health of the cow is more significant. We encourage you to contact us and discuss your mastitis concerns—both regarding treatment and prevention (which is always going to pay better dividends!)

The British Cattle Vet Association (BVCA) in conjunction with Red Tractor have released a statement regarding the use of CIA (critically important antibiotics) tubes.

‘Clearly HPCIA’s are still only to be used as a last resort and supported by diagnostic testing. With a reduction of available products the threshold for justification for use will be lower, however justification will still be required as will a responsible approach to the use of antimicrobials even in these challenging circumstances.’

Sterile sampling of mastitis cases BEFORE ANY TREATMENT is given may be sensible given the situation. The samples should be labelled and stored in the freezer. If treatment response is poor we can then test promptly to find the most appropriate tube—this would provide justification of the critically important antibiotics if they proved the most suitable. Please don’t hesitate to ask for more advice.

TB testing restrictions—update on DEFRA regulations

We have heard of several farms being put on restriction under TB control regulations because there have been animals omitted from the latest TB test, either ones which should have been tested and were not present on the farm or more commonly CTS data is not up to date. We have investigated a few cases on behalf of our clients and more often than not it is a problem with inaccurate CTS data.

Unfortunately if this is not resolved by the time your TB test should have been completed it is now penalised by DEFRA with a reduction in single farm payment of:

1-10 days after window closes—1% reduction

11-30 days after window closes—3% reduction

>30 days—3% reduction

When we visit your farm to complete a test we are given a list of animals which DEFRA require testing. If there are any discrepancies at this time it is essential they are sorted by the second visit (test reading) to avoid any potential irregularities. Please don't hesitate to ask if you are unsure—Helen & Jo will guide you through the new system.

Vet Tech Update from Helen

It's been a busy time with all the services I have been out and about doing recently. I have been keeping out of trouble with mobility & condition scoring for farms on Tesco, Sainsburys etc to fulfil their milk contract requirements including uploading the data on the relevant sites including Vet Impress and milk buyer websites. I am happy to carry this out at morning or afternoon milking—whatever suits your system.

I fill the rest of my days with disbudding and castrating calves, blood sampling and collecting data for Calf Health Club members including measuring calf growth rates and testing for total proteins.



For more information on Vet Tech Services please phone Helen at the surgery on 01995 602468

Out of hours provisions

We are very lucky to have the companion animal team available 24 hrs a day to answer our phones and dispense any medicines you require at any time of day or night at no extra cost. If you wish to speak to the on call vet out of hours please just ask them and clearly leave your name, farm name and phone number. If the vet is not out on an emergency call they will call you back immediately, if they are busy they will reply as soon as possible. Please state when you call if the matter is of an urgent nature—an alternative vet may be contacted if it is urgent.

If you require a visit state this clearly and the nature and urgency of the visit.

If the small animal team are busy (they can all be involved in emergency procedures at times) we do employ a professional answering service who will deal with your call. This ensures your request is always dealt with as promptly as possible.

We have considered out-of-hours calls being re-directed directly to the on call vet however as there will be times when the vet is uncontactable (either busy operating or in one of our many areas where phone signal is unreliable) we would prefer your call to be answered promptly.

We welcome any constructive feedback on our out-of-hours service (or indeed any aspect of our service) - we are always trying to improve your experience.

Our out-of-hours service is contacted on the usual number 01995 602468.

Non-urgent enquiries are best dealt with by our dedicated farm animal receptionists Mon—Fri 8.30am-5.30pm and Sat 8.30am-12pm.

Contact numbers

Mike Bevan	07930 498158
Janet Horsfield	07737 938559
Tom Lyons	07850 713914
Lora Fryars	07946 627801
Harry Collas	07563 985756
Janis Blair	07835 253100
Emmie Bland	01995 641000
Simon Wilson	01995 641000

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