



Lanes
FARM VETS

Newsletter

April 2020

Well, this is not quite what we had planned to write on our April 2020 newsletter! Unfortunately it goes without saying all planned meetings are currently postponed and we will update you on future dates as and when we can rearrange.

We are trying to maintain as much of our large animal services as possible to support your business whilst safeguarding both you and our staff.

There are several changes to our normal working day:

There is no access into the surgery at Garstang or Brock Auction, however drug collections can still be made from the green chest at the farm animal entrance.

We request all drugs are pre-ordered so they can be ready for you. Please order drugs before 12noon as our office staff will be working from home in the afternoon.

All large animal vets are working from their cars and are not entering the surgeries to prevent spread of virus within the team. They can still be contacted by phone.

Please be assured we are doing everything we can to maintain a high level of service. Our priorities are maintaining production of food and welfare. Fertility work is continuing as long as we can keep our social distance (or is it unsocial distance?!)

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to call 01995 602468. Our office staff are working with reduced staff in the building to help minimise social contact so please be patient and supportive, they are doing a fab job in difficult circumstances.



Check out our facebook page for up-to-date news and please send us pictures of your innovative handling successes allowing social distancing whilst safely treating animals. Prize for the best!

Lanes farm vets on facebook or email: farmteam@lanesfarmvets.com

'A local practice committed to delivering outstanding service'



Green Lane Vet Centre, Garstang PR3 1PR Tel: 01995 602468

WORKING SAFELY WITH VETS ON FARM

These are currently the guidelines we are following at Lanes Farm Vets & Beacon Farm Vets to reduce us being a threat to you and vice versa. Please help us comply.

- Maintain a physical distance of 2m at all times; innovative restraint techniques may be required!
- Contact with clients who are self isolating or confirmed to have Covid-19 should be by telephone only. If you need a visit and have reason to suspect there may be a high risk of virus presence please call us to discuss. We may be able to send 2 staff members to deal with the case, allowing you to converse by telephone only
- We will wear gloves and require cleaning facilities after the visit (as per usual biosecurity)
- We cannot enter the farmhouse for any reason and unfortunately cannot accept drinks or food (as soon as we are over this virus I can assure you all refreshments will again be very gratefully received!)
- At the time of writing statutory TB testing is currently not affected—please phone if you have concerns as we continue to receive guidance from APHA. Overdue tests will still put herds under restrictions (direct to slaughter only) however there will be no BPS penalty during lockdown.
- Health plans can be carried out in situations where we have been on premises recently and are familiar with all stock. If you can provide data by email we can complete the health plan with communication over the phone.
- Phone consultations are available to discuss treatment options. Please phone the office as normal (01995 602468) and if you can't be transferred straight to a vet they will call you back asap.

Lepto vaccine offer finishes end of April

Don't forget to order your Leptovoid H 1st & 2nd doses. We have been informed there will be a price increase after our current stocks are sold. Those restarting as a result of vaccine availability issues last year qualify for **buy 3 get 1 free**. Call now to secure your order at the reduced price.

COW SIGNALS—PART ONE

Since we were unable to run our cow signals meeting this month, we've decided to bring the meeting to you. The aim is to be able to interpret and act on what you see when you look at your cows, and thereby increase the cows' production and lifespan.

Every week we'll publish an article on Cow Signals to the [Lanes Farm Vets Facebook](#) page. Here's a preview of the first instalment, but don't forget to visit our page to view the rest!

Rumen Fill

Look: Assessing rumen fill is incredibly easy and gives key information about feed availability. Before feeding out, walk amongst the cows and observe the triangle area on the left hand side of the cow just behind the ribs. You can assign the cow a score between 1 (very empty) and 5 (very full).



Think: Cows with a hollow, concave triangle behind their ribs won't have eaten in the previous 6 hours and if you see cows like this you need to figure out why this might be? If the cows have finished their ration a long time ago then the answer is obvious. If only certain animals are empty then why is this? Do timid heifers score worse than cows or are lame cows making fewer visits to the feed face? It's also useful to re-assess the cows 3 hours after feeding. A big difference in average rumen fill pre and post feeding shows that the cows are allowed to become very hungry between feeds and we would expect this to affect the herd performance.

Act: Cows housed in the optimum environment will choose to eat about 14 meals per day. After rumen scoring the herd you'll have a good idea whether they're managing this or not and you may already have your suspicions as to why this is.

In the next week's article we'll show you how to assess the feed face and throughout the series we'll look at other topics help you to confirm those suspicions.

Lambing notes

Hopefully lambing is going well for everyone. A few thoughts to pass on:

Docking—please make sure that when ringing tails you leave them long enough to cover the female genitalia (ie at least a third of the length) and the anus of male lambs. This will still allow fly control whilst protecting the sensitive areas.

Castration—The painful process of ringing does check growth rates for several days and is known to cause pain for several weeks. If lambs are finished quickly (within 4months) or can be separated from females at weaning it is possible they could be left entire. Obviously the risks of unwanted pregnancies may outweigh any welfare gains of not castrating—evaluate the necessity in your own system.

Vaccination against clostridial diseases can be carried out from 3 weeks old—it is a relatively cheap vaccine and can prevent those disheartening lamb losses where a fit big lamb is found dead in the field due to acute *Pasteurella pneumonia* or clostridial diseases. We usually recommend Ovivac P Plus for fattening lambs and Heptavac P Plus for replacement breeding stock.

Wormer control & resistance—don't over drench your stock. Use faecal egg counts to determine if a drench is necessary. We have found over the past few years that many of the samples we receive have very low egg counts and drenching can often be delayed. We will endeavour to continue to carry out pre-drenching and post-drenching tests during this current situation. Please phone first to organise a suitable time as we are running on very much reduced staff.

Please feel free to contact me on janet.horsfield@lanesfarmvets.com if you have any enquiries and I will endeavour to answer asap.

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