



Lanes  
FARM VETS

# Newsletter

July 2021

## Dates for your diary

**Medicines courses**—we continue to carry these out on farm and the easing of Covid restrictions should hopefully mean we can carry out group meetings soon. Please call to register your interest.

Advance notice— our **annual AI and foot trimming courses** will be running later in the year. DIY AI in September and Herdsman Foot trimming in December. Call for more information or to book a place.

## THE LEGEND HAS RETIRED

An (almost) final farewell to Mike...

Mike is finally hanging up his stethoscope after 30 years at Lanes Vets (formally Dimples Lane). He has recently been mainly filling out very important forms to export meat and animal products since Brexit, which saw the requirement for certification dramatically increase.

Although Mike hasn't been working much on farms for the last 6 months he remained a great member of our team and we will still miss him. His cheery banter and refreshing outlook on life brightened up many a day. His next challenge is conquering Mont Blanc in September with Mandy, his wife, who has also retired.

When not in France, he has promised us that he will be available when we need him so hopefully although it's a goodbye, it's not an absolute farewell!

Good luck in your next adventure Mike and keep in touch—I'm sure you all will agree it's been great working with him over the years.

Seth Kennard is starting this month to replace Mike as our new farm vet (see back page for his intro).



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

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

## TB biosecurity—Keep it out!

In light of the few recent TB breakdowns around the area its worth just taking a minute to consider how to keep it off your farm.

Bovine TB biosecurity involves stopping TB-infected cattle entering the herd, restricting contact between cattle and badgers, and reducing the TB-risk from neighbouring cattle herds. There are 4 main considerations:

### 1) Responsible cattle movement

Introducing new animals to a herd can be a potential disease risk for TB (and other cattle diseases). The key objective of responsible cattle movements is to consider the TB history of the herd that you are buying from. Try to obtain a full TB history of herds from which you purchase cattle so that you can assess the level of risk and take action to manage it. As a minimum, you should ask for the following three pieces of information. When was the pre-movement test, when was the herd officially TB free and when was the last routine TB test?

Bought in animals should also be isolated (for TB safety this means 60 days!) to allow time for a post-movement test, and other diseases to become apparent, before mixing with your cows.



### 2) Biosecurity in the building

Badgers are opportunistic feeders and will enter buildings if feed is readily available. Infected badgers may excrete *M. bovis* in sputum, urine, faeces and discharges from wounds. Transmission to cattle may occur via direct contact with badgers or indirect contact with material contaminated by badger excretions. Badger visits to farm buildings can be frequent, especially to feed stores. Even if you do not see them, they may still occur. CCTV cameras can be useful to identify badger activity.



Solid, smooth fences, building sides and gates need to be over 1.5m to prevent badgers climbing over them. Gaps under or between need to be less than 7.5cm to ensure they can't squeeze through. Don't forget they can dig so ensure hard surfaces underneath.

Storage of feed is critical, if you can't keep badgers out consider using silos or bins with lids and avoid spillages.

### 3) At pasture

The presence of supplementary feed at pasture will increase the risk of badgers coming into contact with your cattle. If you have to feed at pasture consider raising troughs off the floor with unclimbable legs. Mineral licks should also be lifted.

Any outdoor feed should be placed away from known badger areas.

Mains water is safer than natural sources which could be contaminated with urine or faeces.



### 4) TB in the environment

In some areas, there is a recognised reservoir of TB infection in badgers, with transmission occurring between cattle, between badgers and between the two species. Compared with badgers, wild deer are likely to play a secondary role in the perpetuation of TB in British cattle, and research suggests this occurs only in localised areas at high deer population densities.

After excretion, *M. bovis* may remain viable (although it cannot multiply) in the environment for a variable period of time, which can range from a few days to many months depending on the weather and other environmental conditions. Inactivation is likely to take longer during winter months, as *M. bovis* survives best in cool, moist environments shaded from direct sunlight. Studies conducted in Ireland have shown that *M. bovis* can persist in slurry for up to six months, and spreading slurry after storage for less than two months has been associated with an increased risk of bovine TB.

There is an excellent resource online which is full of very useful advice on TB control, what to do if you have a breakdown and a host of other answers to commonly asked questions. Anyone can access it online via:

<https://tbhub.co.uk> or type TBhub into your search engine.

## Welcome to our new farm vet—Seth Kennard

Our new farm animal vet, Seth Kennard, is joining us this month from a large farm veterinary practice in Cheshire (but we won't hold that against him!)

A few facts about Seth we managed to drag out of him...

*Favourite food:* ...hmm... I love a coffee and walnut cake

*Favourite tipple:* I'm a big fan of real ale (golden in summer and a nice stout in the darker months)

*Greatest achievement?:* not sure—I'm pretty pleased with my 3 Lakeland 100 finishes (for those of you that don't know, the Lakeland 100 is a gruelling 100 mile race over the rugged Lakeland fells, not for the faint hearted ...or sane!)

*When did you decide you wanted to be a vet?* It was after working on the school farm looking after 3 Dexters, 8 Ryeland sheep, 2 goats, 30 chickens and an assortment of rabbits and guinea pigs (although I'm not sure I've touched a guinea pig since!) Since then I've been interested in sustainable farming practices, both economical and environmental—I still want British farming to be leading the way by the time I retire and, as a vet, it's my job to help clients achieve this.

*What would you be if you weren't a vet?* Probably a brewer—a good mix of chemistry creating the perfect brew.

We will be introducing Seth to as many of you as possible in the next few weeks (- he'll be the tall one!).



### Contact numbers

Janet Horsfield	07737 938559
Tom Lyons	07850 713914
Lora Fryars	07946 627801
Harry Collas	07563 985756
Emmie Bland	01995 641000
Liv Cartmell	01995 641000

### Lanes Farm Vets

Green Lane Vet Centre, Green Lane West  
Garstang, PR3 1PR **Tel: 01995 602468**  
Email: [farmteam@lanesfarmvets.com](mailto:farmteam@lanesfarmvets.com)

### Beacon Farm Vets

Brockholes Arms Auction Mart/Garstang Rd,  
Preston PR3 0PH **Tel: 01995 641000**  
Email: [vets@beaconfarmvets.co.uk](mailto:vets@beaconfarmvets.co.uk)

[www.lanesvets.com](http://www.lanesvets.com)

