

Farm News December 2022

Pneumonia in cattle

As we go through the winter months cases of pneumonia in housed animals start to rise. Most often pneumonia starts as a viral infection, the 2 most common agents seen are Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Parainfluenza (PI3). A secondary opportunistic bacterial infection then takes hold from bacteria that are normally found in the nasal passages. Symptoms seen in these animals include high temperatures and lethargy progressing to heavy breathing, and coughing. Treatment requires antibiotics and non-steroidal drugs eg. Metacam.

The best chance of a successful recovery relies on timely identification of sick animals and prompt treatment - the sooner the better. In bad cases of pneumonia, the damage done to the lungs of the animal will have a negative impact on the animal for the rest of its life, particularly seen in the decreased growth rates.

Minimising the risk to your stock from pneumonia comes in several forms; improving housing, improving management techniques, decreasing stress and vaccination. Listed below are several key points to consider.



Moving animals and mixing groups

Buying for market hugely increases the risk of animals coming down with pneumonia, so always

buy from private sources where possible. House the animals in groups based on age and avoid having a large age range in the same group, or in the same airspace. Appreciate that weaning is a stressful time for calves and try to spread out the management changes rather than changing diet and environment on the same day.

Housing

Clean, free-draining pens are essential, with ventilation at calf height. Often letting off a smoke bomb will help in assessing where the airflow is lacking in your shed - talk to one of the vets for this assessment.



Vaccination

A bespoke plan for your farm and your animals' requirements is key, vaccination is aimed at improving the animal's immunity to viral infectious agents, to prevent the secondary bacterial infections taking hold. Vaccinations are generally very effective but need to be used in the correct way for your animals and farm set up.

We always recommend that you speak to your vet to discuss bespoke advice for your farm, and being proactive in assessing the risk before animals are getting sick.



Cait Whiteley

Cait joined Glenthorne in August 2022 after graduating from the University of Liverpool Vet School. She works as a mixed vet. Cait is looking to focus on sheep and youngstock and is currently working towards the TB testing exam.

TB Advisory Service

We are now offering free tailored advice on TB through the TB Advisory Service. This service is funded by Defra and delivered by our own vets, providing advice on how to reduce the risk and impact of TB on your farm. Vets can carry out an on-farm visit to discuss all aspects of TB including wildlife ecology, biosecurity, building design, movements and trading options tailored to each individual farm set up and business. Please contact the Farm Office to arrange a free of charge visit from one of our trained vets.



Vet Students on Farm

We continue to welcome vet students on placement and recently Caitlin Mayes, a final year student at the University of Nottingham spent 2 weeks. Here she shares some of her experiences...

UK vet students do 6 months of veterinary placements on top of their studies. At university we cover a bit of everything, moving on every few weeks – so my group started out caring for inpatients in an equine hospital, then went to help with charity small animal appointments before doing a course in herd health. With placements outside of university there is more flexibility to gain further experience according areas of interests.

Placements are when we get the best opportunity to improve hands-on skills and build up experience. Routine visits, such as pregnancy diagnosis or blood sampling are especially useful to practice as well as assisting with surgery, calvings and other more complex procedures. Completing our placements is compulsory before we can graduate, but it's also key to turning us into competent vets, so we're very grateful when we get to put what we've been taught into practice on farm.

Christmas Opening Hours

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd Dec ~ Open as normal
 Sat 24th Dec ~ Main building open 8.30am – 12:30pm (**for pre-orders only**)
 Christmas Day ~ Closed (out of hours service)
 Boxing Day ~ Closed (out of hours service)
 Tues 27th Dec ~ Closed (out of hours service)
 Weds 29th to Friday 30th ~ Open as normal
 Sat 31st Dec ~ Main building open 8.30am – 12:30pm (**for pre-orders only**)
 Mon 2nd Jan ~ Closed (out of hours service)
 Tues 3rd Jan ~ Open as normal



Please note the direct line to the Farm Office is

01889 567200

Please continue to phone or email to place medicine orders in advance, especially over the festive period to avoid delays.

To help connect you directly to the Farm Office we have produced and enclosed fridge magnets with our direct line on. If you would like any spares please let us know.

Future Events

Look out for an evening meeting in conjunction with Uttoxeter NFU on Monday 27th February on Bovine TB with Sarah Tomlinson BVM&S MRCVS, TBAS Advisor and Technical Director

