

Subsidised respiratory disease testing

As we come to the end of the traditional 'pneumonia season' now is a good time to reflect back on how respiratory disease affected your farm. We have access to some subsidised testing to allow identification of the pathogens primarily causing issues. This can be done retrospectively by two consecutive blood tests approximately 2-3 weeks apart and ideally should be done within 6 months of initial infection. Testing now may help to guide vaccination programmes or potential management changes prior to next year. If fresh pneumonia outbreaks occur the subsidised testing can be used to sample new untreated infections so you don't have to wait until the outbreak is over. Give us a call to discuss the best options with one of our vets!

TB Testing Around Easter

We have a lot of herds due annual / 6 month TB tests in the near future, complicated by the long weekend at Easter (15-18th April) followed very quickly by the early May bank Holiday (2nd May). Please can we ask anyone needing whole herd tests in the next couple of months to ring and book as soon as possible. We already have a number of tests booked in right through April and into May. So if possible, please call the office (01477 571000) and book to avoid missing your preferred dates.



Huskvac Reminder

We are still receiving Huskvac orders for those who haven't done their first doses yet. Please can we encourage you to order early as we are currently experiencing small delays in supply due to manufacturer delays. Using Huskvac is an effective way to control lung worm in cattle by stimulating immunity in young stock prior to turnout. This avoids the classic 'Husk' symptoms we see in naïve animals when they encounter

natural infection. This infection can be associated with a significant check in growth rate and can lead to quite severe pneumonia. If you don't currently vaccinate with Huskvac, but would like to discuss it with one of the vets, just give us a ring and we'd be happy to have a chat through it with you.

Farm Team Announcement



We are delighted to announce that both Jennie Lomas and Matt Raine have been promoted to Senior Vet roles within our farm team here at Wright & Morten. After qualifying in 2015, Matt joined us that year as a new graduate, and Jennie the following year after beginning her career in Derbyshire. They have developed into fantastic vets, each with their own areas of interest

and expertise. This is a well-deserved step up for both of them, and we are excited to see them extend the current leadership team. As Senior Vets, Jennie & Matt join Clinical Directors Helen & Hollie, and our Large Animal Operations Manager Emily Burnham in their commitment to Wright & Morten and to all of our valued clients.

We are sure you will join us in a hearty "Congratulations!" to Jennie and Matt.

Client Meetings Back in Action

We are gradually getting back into some form of post-COVID normality and hope this will give us more opportunity for more meetings and events. After the extremely popular post-mortem evening in December, we recently held two lambing courses and Matt ran a Flock Health Club meeting discussing Ewe Nutrition pre-lambing.



We have a few different events in the pipeline for the spring and early summer, however we are always keen to hear what you would like to hear about. Please mention any suggestions to any of the vets or let us know at the office if there are any topics you would like us to run an event on and we will do our best to get something put together.

- We are planning a calf meeting which will be focussed on respiratory disease. As we draw out of the winter and pneumonia season, now is the time to review what worked well and what didn't go as well as you would like. We hope this will give opportunity for people to share their ideas and experiences, and we'll provide some advice on what we can do next year to keep on top of pneumonia and the best treatment choices. The date for this meeting is still to be confirmed but we are expecting it to be early April. Please register your interest for the meeting with the office.
- Matt has arranged for a speaker from AHDB and SCOPS to come along to talk about worm control in sheep, with particular focus on lambs. This meeting was originally planned for late-spring 2020, but obviously that plan went out the window. This will be an evening meeting and will cover the key aspects of sustainable worm control. Covering the wormers themselves, but also management aspects that could be beneficial to reduce the reliance on chemical control. Invites for this meeting will make their way through the post to you in a few weeks time.

TB Advisory Service

The TB Advisory Service was originally launched in 2017 and is now a national project funded by DEFRA that will be delivered by Farmcare Solutions Ltd for the next three years.

The overall aim of TBAS is to work with farmers to reduce the incidence and severity of TB breakdowns in England, supporting delivery of the government's Strategy for achieving Officially TB Free status by 2038.

Cattle farmers and keepers of farmed non-bovine animals can now sign up for this free service that provides bespoke one-to-one on-farm and telephone advice about practical and cost-effective measures to improve the herd/flock's resilience to bovine TB and to control the impact of a TB breakdown, including specific advice on trading options for TB restricted holdings.

The on-farm advice visits usually take around two hours. An experienced adviser will discuss with the farmer any concerns regarding TB followed by a walk around the farm and fields to assess biosecurity and to better understand the current situation. The adviser will then identify potential areas where TB risk could be eliminated or reduced and will discuss why these are risks and how to control them. Finally, the adviser will produce a report that will include a list of four recommendations of practical measures that can be implemented to improve on-farm biosecurity and trading practices.

There will be a follow up visit six to nine months after the initial visit to assess progress with implementation of the recommendations and provide further advice.

In addition, and whenever is considered necessary, the TBAS can offer specialised advisers trained in badger ecology to carry out sett surveys of the farm.

Our practice has three trained TBAS advisers ready to offer you this service. All farmers can benefit from the advice provided, whether you have never had TB or have recurrent TB breakdowns.

FREE TB Advice

Fed up of playing the TB lottery?



If so, you can access tailored advice from the TB Advisory Service to reduce the risk and impact of bovine TB on your farm.

Experienced farm advisers are available to give advice by telephone or during two free on-farm advisory visits.

The service is funded by Defra, so there is no cost to eligible farmers.

To find out more please contact us:

E info@tbas.org.uk

W tbas.org.uk

T 01306 779410



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Please do not hesitate to contact us or the TBAS team if you would like to access the service.

For more information, please see the official TBAS website:

<https://www.tbas.org.uk>

Additionally, these are the websites to visit for all information regarding TB:

www.tbhub.co.uk

www.ibtb.co.uk

www.gov.uk/government/policies/bovine-tuberculosis-bovine-tb

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