

Farm News October 2023

Changes to Farm Animal Medicine Dispensing

From 1st September 2023 the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons introduced new guidance on prescribing prescription-only medicines.

What has changed?

With effect from 1st September when prescribing antibiotics, antifungals, and anti-parasitics for production/farmed animals, the veterinary surgeon prescribing the medications must have an in-depth knowledge of the premises, including its production systems, the environment, disease challenges and the general health status of the herd, flock or group. Veterinary surgeons should have attended and inspected the premises and physically examined at least one representative animal prior to prescribing, recently enough to ensure they have adequate current information and knowledge to prescribe responsibly,



effectively, and taking into consideration any available production data and diagnostic laboratory results.

What does this mean for you?

With immediate effect, when ordering medicines from Glenthorne Vets Farm Office, all medicine requests, without exception, must be authorised and checked by a farm vet.

We ask that at least 24hours notice is given when requesting medication, particularly if you are planning to collect on a Saturday morning.

If you choose to call in to the practice 'when passing' to collect medicines which have not been pre-ordered you may be asked to wait to enable us to get authorisation from a farm vet, particularly if one is not readily available on site.

This is extremely likely on Saturday mornings when the farm office is closed and the farm vets on duty are unlikely to be on site due to being out on visits so not readily available to authorise medication requests. Medicines required for Saturday collection must be requested before 4.00pm on the Friday before and can be collected from our small animal reception between 8.30 - 4.00pm on the Saturday.



We understand there will be occasions when medicines will be required urgently on a Saturday, but please once again be aware there may well be a wait for these to be authorised and dispensed if the duty farm vets are not on site.

We appreciate this change brought about by our governing body and therefore one we must adhere to may be a cause of some inconvenience, but please be assured we will do all we can to mitigate any inconvenience caused.

If you have any further questions, or wish to speak to one of our farm vets, please do not hesitate to contact the Farm Office on 01889 567200

Calf Housing for Health & Welfare – Funding Available

Applications for Animal Health & Welfare Pathway grants of between £15,000 and £500,000 are now open. The first grant, “Calf Housing for Health and Welfare”, is available to co-fund both new calf housing and upgrades to existing facilities. It aims to improve social contact between calves, and their ambient environment, including ventilation, draught protection, temperature and humidity control.

Any farmer with 11 or more cattle, who owns the land where the calves will be housed or has at least five years left on a tenancy agreement, is eligible to apply. There are three stages:

- an online eligibility checker
- an assessment of the current environment
- a full application.

The deadline for completion of the first stage is November 30th 2023

There are some specific requirements – for example, calves must not be housed in a shared airspace with cattle over 6 months old – but the range of costs covered broadly includes buildings, permanent fixtures (including pens, ventilation, feeders, washing facilities, temperature / humidity loggers, heat lamps and enrichment), delivery, installation, alterations to electric and water supplies, and even solar panels.



As part of the process, your vet must visit your farm to discuss your calf housing needs. This could be an RPA-funded visit under the DEFRA’s Animal Health and Welfare Review. The visit will look at how best to improve social grouping of calves (which is shown to improve solid feed intake) and their environment (which plays a huge role in calf health alongside nutrition, stress and the presence of pathogens). Improvements in these areas are a great opportunity to work towards improved growth rates and reduced disease.

For more information or to start your application, go to

www.gov.uk/government/publications/calf-housing-for-health-and-welfare-2023

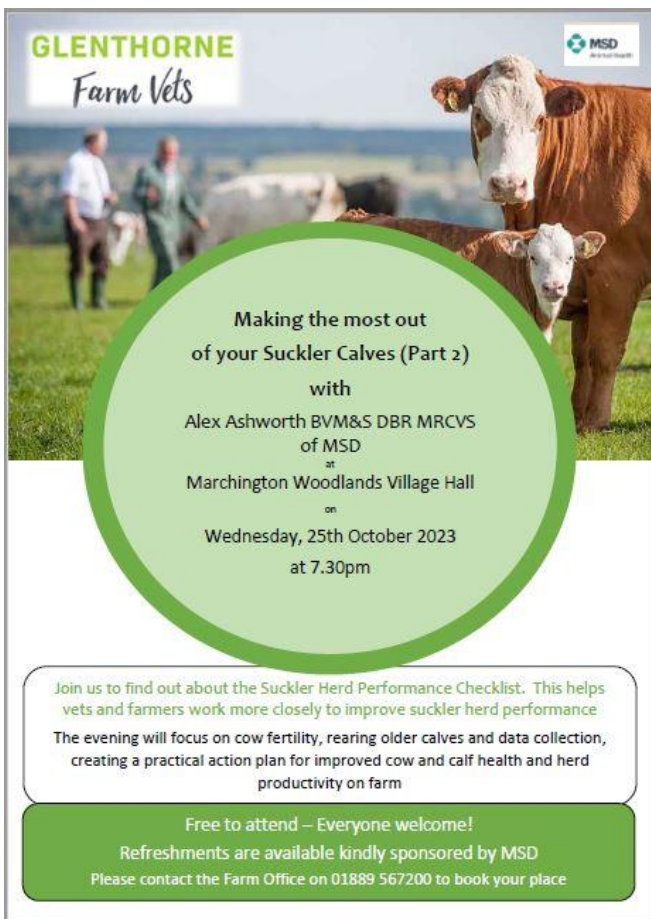


FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Join us for the rescheduled meeting

Making the most out of your Suckler Calves

On Wednesday 25th October at
Marchington Woodlands Village Hall
at 7.30pm



GLENTHORNE
Farm Vets

MSD
ANIMED

Making the most out
of your Suckler Calves (Part 2)
with
Alex Ashworth BVM&S DBR MRCVS
of MSD
at
Marchington Woodlands Village Hall
on
Wednesday, 25th October 2023
at 7.30pm

Join us to find out about the Suckler Herd Performance Checklist. This helps
vets and farmers work more closely to improve suckler herd performance
The evening will focus on cow fertility, rearing older calves and data collection,
creating a practical action plan for improved cow and calf health and herd
productivity on farm

Free to attend – Everyone welcome!
Refreshments are available kindly sponsored by MSD
Please contact the Farm Office on 01889 567200 to book your place

Light Refreshments are kindly sponsored
by MSD

Contact the Farm Office on 01889 567200
to book your place

ENGLISH WINTER FAIR

Come and visit us at the
English Winter Fair

Staffordshire County Showground
Weston Road
STAFFORD
ST18 0BD

18th & 19th November 2023



STAFF NEWS

Sarah Weston

We are delighted to see Sarah Weston back in the
Farm Office on a phased return to work following
knee surgery. Welcome back!

Caitlin Mayes

You may remember Caitlin spending a couple of
weeks with us last December as a graduate
student in her final year. We are happy to
announce that she is now a mixed vet at
Glenthorne. She graduated from Nottingham
University

