



Seasons Greetings.

We wish all of our clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We wish you all and your stock the best of health in 2026 and beyond.

The weather at this time of year is challenging with high moisture levels and large temperature fluctuations.

If you are experiencing issues with pneumonia, mastitis or calf scour please give us a call so we can offer advice re the best ways to treat these but even more importantly try to reduce spread to others and take preventative measures to reduce the risk. This could be taking samples to identify the best drug to use as well as setting up a tailored vaccine protocol to help reduce the risk in other livestock. We need to ensure animals are under minimal stress so they are better equipped to cope with infections. Stress can take many forms including thermal stress, nutritional stress and mixing of groups.

Colostrum of course is always key and we need to ensure animals pre-calving or pre-lambing are on the correct plane of nutrition. We can take blood samples to check protein and energy status as well as trace elements.

For sheep we would emphasise the importance of body condition scoring as well as scanning so they can be fed accordingly. As well as having the correct diet, we need to ensure there is also adequate space for each animal to get its fair share of the food. Lameness in ewes can increase the risk of low birthweight lambs and twin lamb disease.

Product availability and alternatives

- ◆ Trymox LA is unavailable and we have Bimoxyl LA as an alternative.
- ◆ Reminder PenStrep is available and that it is a fridge item.
- ◆ Betamox RTU is still unavailable. For high yielding cows Ceporex might be an option, otherwise Synulox RTU, Bimoxyl LA or PenStep.
- ◆ MASTIC Lacto is the alternative to Synulox Lactating Cow Tubes.

Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm Saturday and we have vets available 24 hours a day.



@kernowfarm



@KernowVets



@Kernowfarmandequine

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Red Tractor Updates

After a few red tractor inspections we have been informed that they are now wanting clients to upload medicines on to the AHDB Medicine Hub.

<https://medicinehub.org.uk/>

MEDICINE+HUB

It is easy for you to sign up and we then need your permission to upload your data. The practice is registered as Kernow Farm Vets on the Medicine Hub. If we also have your CTS third party permissions (please contact us to get a third party permission form) we can then easily use our computer system to generate Antibiotic reviews for your Farm Assurance visits and upload the information on to this database. We can also use CTS records to help record PD results and treatments given to animals when on visits helping with record keeping.

For your information, Red Tractor and BCVA stipulate it is unsuitable for cows in shackles to be transported. Shackles play an important role in rehabilitation of certain conditions but for transportation cattle wearing them can be more at risk of falling, and are likely to find it difficult to stand again. Additionally, the cow will have increased difficulty during loading and unloading due to the angle of the ramps into the vehicle.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 14th January in the afternoon is a provisional date for a mastering medicines beef & sheep course.



A dairy medicines course including MilkSure training is being organised for January, date TBC.

Please call the office to register interest.

Bluetongue 3

This is a viral disease that is spread by infected midges. It affects all ruminants – sheep, cattle, goats, deer, alpacas and camelids. There have been multiple cases of confirmed BTV 3 within the practice.

There has also been several cases of BTV 8 in Cornwall.

Clinical signs include depression, raised temperature, swollen head, stiffness, nasal discharge, eye discharge, ulcers in the mouth, swellings around the coronet, drooling, swollen teats, difficulty breathing, abortion and poor fertility.



VACCINATION IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT YOUR STOCK

This is a **NOTIFIABLE** disease. Contact APHA to report suspicion of disease on 03000200301.

Calf scours

There are multiple reasons for calf scour. It is best to get samples so we can get a diagnosis. Remember vaccines are available to give to cows 3-12 weeks to boost antibodies in the colostrum for rotavirus, coronavirus and some strains of E.coli. For farms with Salmonella problems other vaccines are available.

Leptospirosis

We have been informed that Bovilis Leptavoid vaccine has been discontinued, the alternative is Spirovac. Contact us as soon as possible to pre-order your vaccine.

Watery mouth

Watery mouth is a bacterial disease, caused by E. coli, affecting newborn lambs. Signs are excessive drooling (watery mouth), lethargy and refusal to drink. E. coli multiplies in the guts of lambs with insufficient immunity from poor colostrum intake. Cleaning and disinfection of lambing pens and ensuring bedding is dry is crucial. ArkGuard is a supplement which supports the defence of the digestive tract of newborn lambs and has been shown to reduce losses. We have a flock health meeting on the evening of the 20th January about watery mouth and use of ArkGuard with a guest speaker, as well as our annual lambing meeting in the day on the 10th February.

Please call the office to book your place.



Calf pneumonia

In acute cases we can take nasal swabs to identify some causal pathogens using PCR technology. This will look for 4 common respiratory viruses including IBR, RSV, PI3, and 4 bacteria including Pasturella, Mannheimia, Mycoplasma and Histophilus.

In recovered cases we can take blood samples from recovered cases ideally at least 2 weeks after infection and at least 4 months of age due to maternal antibody interference.

In some cases we can obtain subsidised testing.

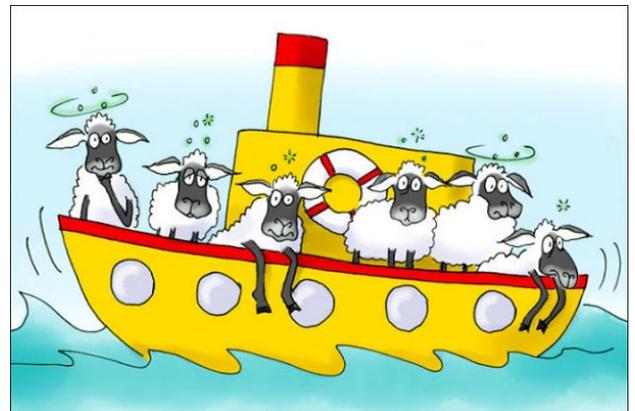
Once we identify the causal agent we can advise re appropriate use of vaccines combined with management changes to reduce the cost to your farm, and improve the health of your livestock.

Veterinary Attestation Numbers—VANS

Due to a change in legislation as of 13 December 2023, if you send animals to slaughter directly; or indirectly via a market you need to have a VAN number. This is to comply with export requirements to verify the absence of notifiable diseases and provide general advice on farm biosecurity. Products that are exported need an EHC (Export Health Certificate), a requirement of this is that the animals on the farm of origin are under veterinary supervision. Even if you are having the carcase back for yourself there could be parts that might be exported. For clients that are Red Tractor Farm Assured - membership of an assurance scheme normally means you do not need a VAN.

The certificates are valid for 12 months, unless there is a change in circumstances.

The VAN number should be added to the Food Chain Information Document .



For sheep clients that use the Livestock Information Service LIS we can log our visit on LIS, the abattoir can check this before products go for export.

Failure to have a VAN could limit the value and demand for your livestock at market or in the abattoir.

Contact us to book in a visit with one of our vets if you need one of these, remember we need to have seen all types of livestock on the farm, if you have multiple locations these will also need to be visited to issue a VAN. For us to be able to dispense drugs for your animals it is a legal requirement that we have seen that species in the last 12 months.

Animal Health and Welfare Review Pathway

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER

Testing plus vet time to discuss the health and welfare of YOUR STOCK. Projects could include worm egg counts and drench resistance in sheep, lameness control, becoming BVD free, Johne's disease management, parasite control and iceberg diseases in sheep (Johne's, MV, OPA).

There are many plans available for dairy, beef and sheep, tailored to meet the needs of your farm and improve health and welfare. The amount of funding you are eligible to receive is increasing on 22 January 2026.