

FARM NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER

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The benefits of being proactive about TB

You may have heard recently that the testing intervals in TB high risk areas (HRA) is changing. The government plan to begin 6 monthly testing from 2020 for the majority of herds in the HRA as part of the 30 year TB eradication plan. Understandably this will be a challenge for all involved, especially as this will sometimes mean testing in summer when stock is out at grass.

Two types of herds are exempt from 6 monthly testing and can remain on annual testing schedule:

Herds that have not had a breakdown for 6 years or more

Herds participating in a CHeCS TB accreditation health scheme for one year or more are also exempt

So what is CHeCS accreditation?

The scheme aims to improve biosecurity to prevent TB coming onto your farm. The government has approved the scheme allowing its members to be exempt from 6 monthly testing. There is a clear template to be followed which can also help in preventing other infectious diseases such as BVD and Johnes. There are some requirements and a small fee to join, but the benefits far outweigh the initial costs.

TB is an infectious disease we can control. By taking measures to prevent exposure, either from cattle or wildlife, we can reduce the risk of breakdown.

For more information, give us a call, visit the CHeCS website (http://www.checs.co.uk/bovine-tb-herd-accreditation) or speak to the free TB advisory service (www.tbas.org.uk) for bespoke, cost effective prevention measures.

TBAS TB Advisory service.

Katy Hawksworth has recently completed her TBAS training, this service is available to all our cattle farmers who have not yet had a visit.

The FREE visit will take around 2 hours. To get funding for the visit we need to apply prior to coming out and need.

- Name and Address
- Contact details phone and email
- CPH, UK Herd number and SBI number the SBI number is related to the CPH number if you do not have one call APHA
- Number and type of cattle

In addition to visits Katy can also offer telephone advice or arrange to pop in for a chat.

During the visit Katy will ask you about your farm set up, and any concerns you have. If you have received a Farm data pack from APHA it is useful to have this available. She will walk around the buildings and the land to see what changes can be implemented. She will advise you and suggest in a written report some achievable practical recommendations to reduce the risk. Several months later you will receive a telephone call from TBAS to see whether you have been able to make the changes and get feedback on the service.

BOOK IN YOUR TESTS ASAP

Those of you that are due tests during September and October please call us to get these booked in as soon as possible as we are getting booked up and want to be able to give you dates that are suitable to you.





WE WILL BE RUNNING
ANOTHER MASTERING
MEDICINES COURSE. PLEASE
CALL TO ADD YOUR NAME
TO THE LIST. DATE TO BE
CONFIRMED.

**BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRAD RACHEL LYE **

Throughout Vet School Rachel enjoyed all aspects of large animal veterinary medicine and enjoy both farm and equine work in equal amounts. She aims to become a good well-rounded large animal vet but does have a keen interest in reproduction across all species including both dairy fertility and mare scanning. Other main interests include lameness across all species, equine internal medicine and smallholder work, especially those with goats!

In her spare time Rachel is looking forward to exploring the coasts of Cornwall with her old boy Archie.





Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm Saturday. Emergency vets available 24/7.





