

Robson & Prescott Newsletter December 2023

Medicine Hub

The medicine hub has been set up by AHDB (Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board) to provide a safe and secure location to collect, report and compare your antibiotic use at an individual farm level. Its aim is to tackle the threat of antimicrobial resistance and allow AHDB to promote the reputation of our industry to the public that we are using antibiotics responsibly. For those of you who are part of the Red Tractor farm assurance scheme, there is a new recommendation for your “Annual Antibiotic Collation” to be upload to the medicine hub.

What you will need to get started:

- CPH number and herd/flock numbers
- If entering data for cattle you will need your CTS web service user ID and password
- Details of medicines used during the year
- Animal population – this is entered after all medicines when submitting a completed medicines return

Once you are registered you will need to assign us as your vet through “third party permissions” and then “add vet practice permission”. Once we are assigned as your vet, we can upload your purchased medicines directly into medicine hub with our new VetImpress system. To find out more and how to progress with linking your data please contact Jonathan at the practice.

BVD

Bovine viral diarrhoea is an infection mainly of cattle but can be transmitted by sheep and deer. Whilst it can cause diarrhoea our main worry are the abortions and infertility it causes as well as suppressing the immune system of calves leaving them more susceptible to pneumonia and scour. BVD can be brought in with new animals, pass over fences up to 3 meters and be spread on shared trailers or equipment.

There are various BVD Free schemes in operation and currently all farm assurance schemes require you to take some action to prove you are controlling bvd. Our preferred schemes are BVDFree England www.bvdfree.org.uk and SRUC Premium cattle health scheme. There are 2 ways to tests for BVD: First is blood sampling, you need 5 calves per batch once a year. The other is to tissue tag all calves including still born as well as test all new arrivals. Negative results for 2 years will allow you to apply to be certified as BVD Negative.

With housing now here, it is now a good time to blood sample calves. We need homebred calves ideally between 9-18 months old. Thankfully we have several effective vaccines against BVD – Bovela is once yearly, ideally given 3 weeks before insemination/mating. Given how disastrous BVD can be in a naive herd we recommend vaccinating all breeding cattle even if your herd is free of BVD. Testing 10 youngstock in this age range is also the qualifier if you sign up to the Animal Health and Welfare Review.

Veterinary Visit Attestation

From the 13th December 2023 all farmers not part of a qualifying farm assurance scheme will need to provide evidence of an annual veterinary visit for your animals or for the meat from those animals to be exported abroad. We can provide that evidence in the form of an attestation. Attestations are valid for 12 months.

Qualifying farm assurance schemes: Red Tractor, Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL), Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), Lion Quality, Poultry Health Scheme, Annual Health and Welfare Review (Pathway vet visits).

The Food Chain Information (FCI) documents will now ask for either your vet attestation number or your farm assurance membership number.

We ask all our farmer who have received an attestation to inform us when:

- A new species of livestock is brought to the farm
- You change your farm's location
- Your farm is affected by restrictions for notifiable diseases (such as TB or Avian Flu)

If you think you need a declaration or are not sure whether you do. Please get in contact with us.

Farmer Meetings

We will be looking to do a farmer meeting aimed at our sheep clients at the end of January with a fertility talk aimed at our cattle clients in early February. We will be sending out dates shortly.

As always, we can be contacted at the surgery on 01670 512276 or on the Farm mobile 07921 401901

Kate, Sam, Andrew & Jonathan