

# Farm news

May 2022



## Tom Woolgar Watch Manager at Alfreton Fire Station

### Fire and Rescue

We are privileged to be able to work with the Large Animal Rescue team for Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service. Over the last few months a number of crew members have accompanied some of the Scarsdale farm and equine vets on calls to get a feel for the kind of work we do and the places we visit, and to see how we can best work together when emergencies arise.

Evacuation plans are often overlooked but can make the difference between life and death in an emergency as Tom Woolgar, the Watch Manager at Alfreton Fire Station, explains below.

### Evacuating Animals in an Emergency

#### Are you prepared?

When a fire or emergency occurs, there are normally robust plans in place to evacuate people from buildings. There will be designated escape routes and a roll call will be taken at pre-planned assembly points to ensure no one is missing.

Have you thought about pre-planning for an animal evacuation? Planning ahead is important, as herding, transporting and housing large farm animals is more complex than evacuating people. Herd and prey animals are more likely to react with fear to the emergency and may even attempt to escape.

The following advice can help you formulate a plan for those animals in your care.

#### What emergencies could you encounter?

Your plan should consider what types of emergencies you may have to deal with, for example:

- Fire
- Power outage
- Flood
- Extreme weather

Consider these scenarios around your farm and how they may impact on your livestock and your ability to continue operating business as normal.

#### Stay or Go?

Depending on the severity of the emergency, it may be safer to leave the animals where they are and protect them from the hazards. If this disrupts their normal routines, what extra resources and plans do you need in place to care for them over the next 24/48/72 hours?

Consider the five freedoms, from the Animal Welfare Act 2006, to meet the physical and mental needs of the animals.

- Freedom from hunger and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress

#### How do you evacuate your livestock?

Your animals will need somewhere safe to go to escape from the emergency. Begin by assessing what fields, paddocks and barns could be available to you. Consider which animals can safely be in the same enclosure and those that need to maintain separation. If you don't have enough evacuation space, can you reach a mutual agreement with neighbouring farmers to accommodate extra livestock in case of an emergency? Do you need transport to get them there safely and is it large enough to deal with the number of animals?

It is a really good idea to signpost or number your field gates to correspond to your evacuation plan and specify which animals need to be evacuated into which field. It will be easier to follow this plan when you are trying to deal with the emergency. If you had a fire, it would be wise to choose the evacuation areas up-wind to keep the livestock clear of the smoke.

Loose horses can often try to return 'home' to their stable even if it is on fire. Try to close stable doors and ensure horses are kept in a secure area away from any further fire spread.

Consider keeping head collars outside each stable to ensure you can lead them to safety under control.



*Blue Watch crew members attending a barn fire.*

## Who can help?

It is a large task to coordinate an evacuation, especially in the middle of the night with minimal staff. Are you able to quickly recall staff back to work to help? Are other local farmers willing to help? Have you got an up-to-date contact list of phone numbers?

You may need to consider calling a vet if any animals are injured or need treatment. Are they available out-of-hours? How quickly can they attend?



*The What3Words app is ideal for pinpointing exact locations for the attending emergency services.*

Consider calling 999 to ask for the Fire Service. They respond to a wide variety of emergencies and are able to offer assistance to protect life, property and the environment. Within Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, there is a specialist Animal Rescue team. They are based at Alfreton Fire Station and will respond to animal emergencies across Derbyshire and into neighbouring counties, if required. They have off-road vehicles equipped with a range of animal handling equipment, including a Palfinger Crane to lift trapped animals. What3Words is a useful app for pinpointing the exact location for the attending emergency services, especially in rural locations. Send someone to the entrance to meet the Fire Service to ensure they can locate the incident quickly. If it is dark, wear high visibility clothing and have a torch so you can be easily seen.

## Plan it, Print it and Practise it!

Make hard copies of your plan and locate them in key areas around your site. When an emergency occurs, it is unlikely that you will have time to access a computer or office to find the plan. Practise your plan with your staff so everyone knows what to do and check that it actually works in real life. Don't forget to review it annually or when you have new animals, buildings or processes on your site. This will ensure it is up to date and not forgotten.

*Stay safe!*

*Tom Woolgar*

*Watch Manager, Alfreton Fire Station.*

*P.s – Look out for the Animal Rescue team at some of the country shows within Derbyshire in 2022. Please come over and say hello!*

# MABS

Midlands Advanced Breeding Services



**Midlands Advanced Breeding Services - it's never too early to think ahead!**

Are you reviewing your records post lambing? Or perhaps, you're shattered after a long and extended lambing period this year and considering how you can condense your lambing season?

Midlands Advanced Breeding Services are here to help; whether it's just a discussion regarding your options and how we can synchronise your ewes, or if you know you want to go all in and have your ewes AI'd; we're always happy to start the ball rolling and discuss how we can help you.



Either call Dave on **01332 294929** or email **MABS@scarsdalevets.com** to start the discussion.

## TBAS: An Introduction

The TB Advisory Service (TBAS) is now offering two free visits by trained vets to assess your farm and give tailored advice to reduce the risk and impact of TB. After the first visit four simple, cost effective, practical recommendations will be made, based on the risks identified. These two visits, 6 months apart, are fully funded by Defra, so there is no cost to eligible farmers.

The TB Advisory Service has been running for 4 years, funded by the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). 98% of farmers that had a free farm visit said the recommendations at the end were useful, and 90% rated the service as excellent.

Defra is now funding the TB Advisory Service for the whole of England (previously it was only available for farmers in the high risk and edge areas). This new round of funding is not just restricted to cattle farmers – it also allows those farmers of other TB susceptible species (camelids, deer, goats, pigs and sheep) to have visits.

A number of our vets are now fully trained to deliver the TBAS service. If you would like to access the service either call the Markeaton practice or contact TBAS directly, where you can name Scarsdale as your preferred vet to deliver the service. For hints and tips on TB biosecurity you can follow TBAS on social media.



W	tbas.org.uk	f	@TBAdvisoryService
T	01306 779410	t	@TB_Advisory
E	info@tbas.org.uk	i	@tbadvisoryservice

**Farm and Equine Centre**  
Markeaton Lane, Markeaton, Derby DE22 4NH  
01332 294929

**Alfreton**  
01773 304900  
**Pride Veterinary Centre**  
01332 678333

**Allestree**  
01332 554422  
**Shelton Lock**  
01332 700321

**Hilton**  
01283 732999  
**Stapenhill**  
01283 568162

**Langley Mill**  
01773 304914  
**Stretton**  
01283 565333

**Mickleover**  
01332 518585  
**Wollaton**  
01159 676586  
**Oakwood**  
01332 666500

**Scarsdale Vets**  
Farm

**Pride Veterinary Centre**  
Hospital. Practice. ....



**The University of Nottingham**