

# Farm news

October 2024



## Opportunity for Farmers to Join a Genomics Pilot Study Carolyn Baguley MRCVS

Earlier this year, Scarsdale hosted a Clinical Club meeting attended by our veterinary team. The meeting featured representatives from Quality Milk Management Services (QMMS) in Somerset and Neogen, the world's leading genomic testing company with labs in Scotland.

Neogen and QMMS have been collaborating for over four years to study genomic predictions and animal performance in selected UK herds. By integrating Neogen's genomic data with herd performance information, we can better understand how genetics are being expressed on individual farms. During the meeting, our vets reviewed the results of this collaboration.

The TotalVet data management package, which we often use for routine health and fertility monitoring, allows us to analyse this data in both tabular and graphical formats. This independent information helps farmers see correlations between genetic predictions and actual performance.

By visualising genomic trait values contributing to their £PLI baseline, farmers can identify which traits are being expressed well – these are ideal candidates to be used in breeding programmes. Where traits are not being fully expressed, breeding is not the limiting factor and management is likely to be playing a bigger role on cow performance, for example diet, stocking density, housing.

Carefully selected traits can be compiled into a simple Custom Index specifically for improving the herd, aiding in the selection of herd replacements and beef crosses for rearing or sale.

Breeds covered include pure Holstein, Ayrshire, Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein x Friesian (where pure = 87.5% or more). Participating herds need to be doing monthly (ideally) or quarterly milk recording.

We thought the idea of integrating genomic data within our TotalVet database was a really interesting one, and we'd like to hear from any farmers interested in joining a small pilot study. This initiative aims to further develop our approach to integrated genetic selection and herd health management. Participating farmers' genomic data would be incorporated into TotalVet at the practice and could be anonymised for discussion at a future farmer meeting, with permission.

Neogen is generously offering 20 testing kits per farm at half price for participating herds. The selected cows should be in their 2nd lactation or older, ensuring that production, health, and fertility records can be compared with genomic predictions immediately. QMMS will assist in analysing the data and preparing a presentation for a farmer meeting.

If you're interested in taking part, please contact the practice for more information or speak to your vet during their next visit to your farm.

**ScarsdaleVets**  
Pets. Farm. Equine.  
Scarsdale Vets, Pride Veterinary Centre,  
Riverside Road, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8HX

## RABI Fundraising Quiz Night

7.30pm  
Thursday 17th October 2024

£10 per person to include pie and pea supper 

Max 6 people per team

 **RAFFLE**

Booking essential.  
Please call the Scarsdale Markeaton office on **01332 294929** to reserve your ticket.

Booking and dietary requirements needed by 9/10/2024

 Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR  **RABI** Registered Charity no: 208858



## Medicine Matters

Rumour has it that Betamox is back in stock. Hurray! (well, at least for now!). Heptavac-P, on the other hand, is experiencing supply issues again. If you can't get what you need, please ask to speak to a vet who will go through the alternatives with you to work out the best solution for your flock.



## Phone System Update Lottie Bonsall



Last month, our new simple phone structure went live!

The new options are -

1. Emergencies
2. Farm
3. Equine

From there our awesome client care team will direct you appropriately. We hope these changes will make things simpler and easier for you!

As the TB phone and insurance desk are not always manned, it will make for a more streamlined service enabling us to manage client expectation and ultimately deliver a better service. We will also have accurate telephone reports which enable us to keep track of how we are measuring up to the standard of phone service we aim for.



### 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

Mickleover  
01332 518585

Oakwood  
01332 666500

## Welcome to Sophia!



A big welcome to our new farm graduate, Sophia Crockford, who joined us last month. Sophia is really excited about starting work with us and you, and introduces herself here.

Hi! I'm Sophia, I graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2024, and have made the move from Hampshire to join the Scarsdale farm team. I am keen to get stuck into all elements of farm practice, I'm excited to get out on farm and meet both commercial and smallholder clients. I hope to build on my interest in herd data analysis and surgery. Outside of work, I like to keep busy by hiking, snowboarding, or baking enough to feed a small army.

## Bluetongue Virus 3 (BTV3):


An update on the latest situation for  
farmers

7th October 2024  
7.00pm - 9.00pm  
Conference  
Room, Pride  
Veterinary  
Centre, Riverside  
Road, Derby DE24  
8HX

Hot drinks and  
light  
refreshments  
provided  
All farm clients  
welcome

Hosted by Scarsdale Farm  
Vets.  
With guest speaker Sascha  
Van Helvoort MRCVS,  
Veterinary Head of Outbreak  
Delivery at APHA  
Dorota Wasiak MRCVS,  
Veterinary advisor  
(Derbyshire, Staffordshire,  
Warwickshire)  
Carolyn Baguley MRCVS,  
Scarsdale Vets

Free to attend,  
but please call  
Markeaton  
reception on  
01332 294929 to  
reserve your  
place

 Scarsdale Vets  
Farm