

## Change to Opening Hours

From August 1st our office at Holly Tree Farm will be closing at the slightly earlier time of 5pm. Should you wish to collect pre-authorized medicines after this time please ring the office before 5pm to organise this. Our on call vet will be available from 5pm onwards providing 24hour cover for emergencies.

## Upcoming changes for Red Tractor Beef & Lamb



From the 1st October 2024 Red Tractor are introducing a new recommendation that antibiotic data is shared with the Medicine Hub. Red Tractor themselves will not have access to this data but once it is anonymised this will be used to help benchmark the ruminant sector. This will hopefully help us to protect access to antibiotics in the future and avoid legislation changes. By getting involved we can prove that as an industry we are using antibiotics responsibly and making huge strides in reduction of antibiotic usage.

To help get you get set up we will be running a couple of short small group workshops in September to teach you how to use the Medicine Hub and answer any questions you may have. We will try to run some at Holly Tree, Whaley Bridge and potentially in the Buxton area to ensure no one has to travel too far. These will be priced at £50 per farm and will last approximately two hours from 1-3pm. During this time we will show you the farmer interface of medicines hub and explain how to use it to get the most from the service. We will then let you have a go setting it up for your own units whilst we offer assistance and troubleshoot any issues. You will also leave the workshop with a 'how-to' instruction booklet. Going forwards we will be offering a subscription service for us to complete the Medicines Hub for you if you would rather not do it yourselves.

To assist in setting up the Medicines Hub we are also going to be splitting accounts by species to ensure everyone knows which drugs are being used where. We will be gradually doing this over the next few months so don't be surprised when we ask you whether the drugs are to be booked out on the dairy, beef or sheep accounts.

## MEDICINE + HUB



## BVD Free England update

We have been notified that the BVD Free England scheme was ended on the 31st July 2024 and the helpdesk will be closing on the 9th August 2024. Whilst this may seem like a backwards step the reason the board have decided to close the scheme is due to the second phase of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) moving towards eradication of BVD in cattle. For those of you who have been registered with BVD Free England it would be worthwhile speaking to us with regards to the AHWP and how you can use this to help protect your BVD status.

## Cheshire Farms Competition – some BIG congratulations

We had a fantastic evening attending a farm walk at Overbank Farm courtesy of Graham Parks to celebrate his Supreme Farm Champion win! Definitely a well deserved winner. Another special mention has to go to the Champion of the premier dairy herd Stuart Royle of Home Farm. Stuart will also be hosting a farm walk on 7th September in collaboration with the North Midlands Shorthorns society. Well done also to Lea Farming and Ian Norbury for their placings in their respective categories.



## Bird registrations

Big changes are coming if you keep poultry - from October 1st 2024 it will be compulsory to register all birds with DEFRA even if you only have a single bird. The numbers will have to be reviewed every year. This is to help better protect birds from future avian flu outbreaks.

## AHWP changes

The second phase of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway is now underway and has had some key changes so we thought we would briefly detail them in this newsletter and we will be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

The review is a fully funded vet visit that can happen every 10 months up to 3 times in a 3 year period. During the review, a vet of your choice will discuss any important issues you are having as well as do some testing as detailed below.

### The review offer is:

- £522 for a beef cattle review
- Must blood test at least 5 unvaccinated cattle 9-18 months old for BVD
- £372 for a dairy cattle review
- Must either test for BVD in bulk milk sample or blood sample at least 5 unvaccinated 9-18 month old animals
- £436 for a sheep review
- Must perform a wormer efficacy test

In addition to this, DEFRA are now offering additional funding for an endemic disease follow-up visit and testing. This can also be done 3 times in 3 years and must be at least 10 months apart. It needs to be done within 10 months of the original review. Below we have detailed out the current offers – please note that the dairy cattle follow-up visit has not yet been launched.

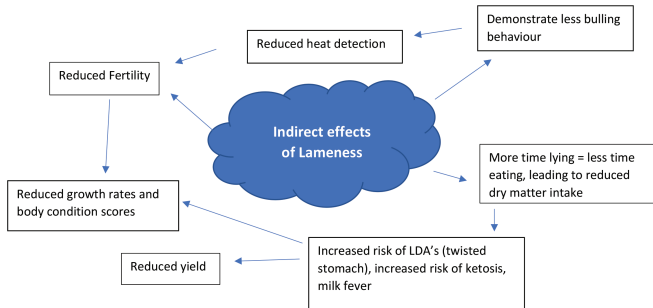
- £215 for beef cattle with no BVD
- Must do a BVD biosecurity assessment
- £837 for beef cattle where BVD is present in the herd
- Must do a BVD biosecurity assessment
- Must perform a PI (persistently infected) hunt on the whole herd via bloods or tissue sampling
- £639 for sheep
- Must choose a package and test for one disease or condition within this package
- Packages available: reproductive performance, ewe condition, lamb performance, neonatal lamb survival, external parasites and lameness.

There are minimum requirements to be eligible for funding. These are 11 or more dairy/beef cattle and 21 or more sheep. Previously you could only apply if you were eligible for BPS payments, however, this requirement has now been removed.

## Lameness in Cattle

Lameness in Cattle is huge problem for welfare and production. It is estimated to cost £330 per case of lameness for a dairy cow due to treatment costs and loss of yield, and can result in involuntary culling due to chronic cases. A majority (70-90%) of lameness is localised to the foot in cattle.

As well as a source of pain for the animals, lameness has indirect effects on fertility, gut health and mastitis.



## Risk Factors

- Long standing time in collection yards
- Poor cow tracks
- Poor cow comfort in cubicles
- Infectious disease (foul or digital dermatitis)
- Sharp corners
- Poor trimming management

## Monitoring

- We offer ROMS mobility scoring on farm to record the amount of lameness present. Some lameness can be very subtle, so our scorers might pick up cases that could otherwise be missed and gives you an idea over time if lameness is improving with measures.
- Bryan, our foot trimmer, has access to software to record lesions on farm. Recording lesions helps give an idea of risk factors specific to your farm. Is your biggest problem infectious digital dermatitis? High occurrence of sole ulcers can suggest standing times and cow comfort aren't ideal. Sharp corners on your farm might flag up as an issue if cattle present with white line lesions.

**Bryan now offers foot trimming across 5 days in the week and will bring his foot trimming crush to farm. Please call the office to discuss availability.**

## Treating Lamé Cows

Best outcomes need fast intervention! Early treatment prevents long term changes to the foot. Details of your specific treatment plan should be found in your health plan. If you'd like a chat to our vets about a plan specific to your farm, please call the office.

### Lame cows need:

1. Anti-inflammatories (Metacam or Ketofen).
2. A functional trim by a competent foot trimmer, often with a block on the unaffected claw.
3. To be housed as close to the yard/parlour as possible and milked at the start or end of reduce standing time.
4. To be house in deep comfortable bedding eg. Loose straw yard.
5. Occasionally antibiotic treatments are required.
6. Intervention from your vet.

## Test yourself!

Can you name these lesions?



How good are you at mobility scoring? Test yourself using AHDB's video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFj72vqUwIU>

Answers

1. Digital Dermatitis 2. White Line Disease 3. Sole bruising

## Phone numbers

We thought it would be useful to have regular reminders of the phone numbers of our vets, TB testers and hoof trimmer. These are all work phones so feel free to save them in your phones and contact the vets directly when needed.

**Helen W – 07733 121536**

**Hollie – 07733 121545**

**Jennie (currently on Maternity leave) – 07773 221944**

**Mel – 07816 440306**

**Janis – 07977 243328**

**Yasmine – 07816 958011**

**Helen L – 07816 202884**

**Morgan – 07733 121535**

**Nottingham Uni vet (Vicki/Jess) – 07890 425800**

**Bryan – 07506 139047**

**Nieves – 07733 121530**

**Mirel – 07807 474024**

**Laura – 07733 121529**

**Emily – 07462 906653**



FARM OFFICES

### Lower Withington

The Barn, Holly Tree Farm, Holmes Chapel Road, Lower Withington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DT

Tel: 01477 571000 Email: [hollytree@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:hollytree@wmvets.co.uk)

### Whaley Bridge Farm Branch

Block B, Ringstones Industrial Estate, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 7PD

Tel: 01663 732564

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