

## Merry Christmas to all of our clients from the whole Wright & Morten Farm Team!

We have had a great year working with you all and look forward to the fun and challenges the animals will bring in the next year! We are excited to continue furthering the services we offer to you and strengthening the existing relationships. As always we welcome all of your feedback and suggestions for what you would like to see in the future.



### Wright & Morten Farm Festive Opening Hours

We will of course continue to provide an emergency service right through the festive period, but the offices at Holly Tree/Whaley Bridge will be closed as detailed below.

Saturday 23rd December .....	Holly Tree open as usual (9am-12pm)
Sunday 24th December .....	Closed
Christmas Day (Monday) .....	Closed
Boxing Day (Tuesday) .....	Closed
Wednesday 28th December .....	Open as usual (8am-5.30pm)
Thursday 29th December .....	Open as usual (8am-5.30pm)
Friday 30th December .....	Open as usual (8am-5.30pm)
Saturday 30th December .....	Holly Tree open as usual (9am-12pm)
New Year's Eve (Sunday) .....	Closed
New Year's Day (Monday) .....	Closed
Tuesday 2nd January .....	Back to normal hours

## Another successful meeting



### Right Carcass, Right Market

We had a great day with AHDB Beef and Lamb looking at selecting the right animals for slaughter and where to market them. We had a really interesting butchery demonstration highlighting the implications of sending stock in that's too fat and what it costs the industry. There was also a competition involving grading 4 live lambs which stimulated a lot of conversation.



AHDB are really keen to work more closely with farmers in our area. They are funded by the levy you pay, so are there for you to make use of. They have access to some brilliant people able to assist with almost any topic, so please let us know if you'd like some more involvement with them.

Many thanks again to all at Smithy Farm for being fantastic hosts and showing off their brilliant stock. Also, thanks to AHDB for their brilliant speakers and Ceva for sponsoring the day.

## TB testing over Christmas/New Year period

The way the festive period falls this year means we have a lot of bank holidays on our usual TB testing days meaning our availability is quite reduced. To avoid any last minute issues, please give us a call soon if you require testing in December/early January so we can make sure we can get you booked in at a time that suits you.

## Bank details reminder

Just a reminder that if you pay your bill via BACS please note that our bank details have changed and will need updating in your system before making a payment. The new details are:

**Name: Independent Vetcare Ltd**  
**Sort Code: 40-01-94**  
**Account No: 01534807**

We also offer on-line payments and direct debit to help make life easier for you. Online payments can be made via the link on the front page of our website and all you need are your invoice number and card details to make the payment.

Direct debit is another option that makes life very easy for you. Once set up we collect the amount of your invoice each month. Payments are normally collected on 21st of each month but this can be changed if a different date works better for you. All we need to do to set this up is ask you to complete one simple form.

**If you would like to request a direct debit form or get any more information then please contact Julia on 01477 571000 or [Julia@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:Julia@wmvets.co.uk)**

## Veterinary attestations

We thought it would be useful to include a little clarification around which animals require a Veterinary Attestation when going to slaughter. Every animal going to slaughter could potentially end up fully or partly being exported to the EU. With this in mind it is important to have an attestation if selling direct to slaughter or via markets. This also applies to cull cows and sheep not just finishers. Stores do not require attestations to be sold at a market.

## Bluetongue warning

Bluetongue is a notifiable disease that has been identified in a cow in Canterbury for the first time in 16 years in the UK. The current outbreak on the continent is due to a new strain of Bluetongue – BTV-3. It affects sheep, cattle and other ruminants such as goats and camelids. It does not affect people or food safety, but outbreaks can result in prolonged animal movement and trade restrictions. Currently all live exports to the Republic of Ireland have been halted. It is mainly spread by midges meaning the risk for the North West is low as we head to winter but it serves to be vigilant.

**Bluetongue is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect it you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301.**

Bluetongue signs include:

- Ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- Discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from mouth
- Swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck and the coronary band
- Red skin (red crusty nose in cattle)
- Fever
- Lameness
- Cattle - reddening and erosions on the teats, milk drop, not eating, abortion



**For further Bluetongue advice speak to any of our vets.**

## Q Fever focus

Q fever is zoonotic meaning it affects people as well as animals. It is caused by a bacteria called *Coxiella burnetii* and affects the majority of ruminants but also some other wild animals, birds and ticks. It was first identified in 1930s Australia but there is still relatively little known about the disease. The focus on its impact within the UK livestock industry has increased in recent years so we decided to make sure our clients are well up to date on potential signs and testing options.



### Transmission

The transmission is usually through inhalation and is most commonly from animal to animal or animal to people. The bacteria itself is extremely resistant to disinfection and cold temperatures making it tricky to eliminate once present. Dust is often contaminated by animal faeces, urine, milk or birthing fluids/placenta. Consumption of contaminated unpasteurised dairy products is another possible source of infection.

### Prevalence

Within the UK recent studies have been undertaken on random bulk milk samples and have found 62-80% prevalence. One study looking at PCR testing of bulk milk on 155 dairy herds in SW England showed a prevalence of 70%. Within humans approximately 100 cases are reported each year within the UK although this is likely to be vastly underreported. In the Netherlands some large outbreaks have led to compulsory vaccination of small ruminants and mandatory bulk milk screening for dairy cattle. In Australia compulsory vaccination for high risk occupation personnel is undertaken but no vaccines exist for livestock.



### Clinical signs in animals

Ruminants can be genuinely negative, asymptomatic carriers, have mild/subclinical disease or production loss or have active/clinical disease. Abortion is one of the main symptoms although cattle especially are rarely systemically ill with it. Goats in particular are the most at risk animals for abortion and clinical signs. General malaise, poor

fertility, weak calves/lambs/kids or abortion, held cleansings and metritis are all signs seen in various ruminant species.

### Clinical signs in humans

The most common symptoms are vague flu-like illness including fever, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea. It is often acute and self-limiting within a few weeks but some people will develop a more severe pneumonia or hepatitis and some will go on to develop a chronic illness. In some cases acute Q fever can lead to miscarriage, premature birth or low birth weight in pregnant women.

### Testing available

Bulk milk PCR will identify positive cattle herds and we can perform an ELISA antibody test on bulk or individual milk samples. The ELISA test will show up previous exposure or vaccination but not necessarily active infection. Other methods of testing involve blood sampling or abortion sampling using both PCR and ELISA techniques. If calling us for abortion sampling it is important to keep the placenta, as this is one of the best ways to diagnose Q fever but also is very helpful for diagnosing other causes of abortion. Sometimes Q fever is found as an incidental finding on abortion sampling and may not be the current cause.



## What next?

As of Spring 2021 Q fever is now reportable in the UK, testing is available through us and it is worth considering if there are vague problems on farm but you are unable to pin down the cause. If a positive sample does occur vaccination is a possibility with a UK vaccine licensed for cattle & goats. It would also be worth re-considering biosecurity on the farm especially during breeding seasons. Facemasks and double gloves as well as good ventilation can all be important in protecting yourselves and workers. The vaccine only protects animals which were non-infected and not pregnant at the time of vaccination but it should help to reduce shedding to protect staff. Give us a call on 01477 571000 if you want to discuss Q fever further.

## 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.

<b>Helen W</b> .....	<b>07733 121536</b>
<b>Hollie</b> .....	<b>07733 121545</b>
<b>Jennie</b> .....	<b>07773 221944</b>
<b>Matt</b> .....	<b>07816 440306</b>
<b>Janis</b> .....	<b>07977 243328</b>
<b>Yasmine</b> .....	<b>07816 958011</b>
<b>Helen L</b> .....	<b>07816 202884</b>
<b>Ash</b> .....	<b>07816 202715</b>
<b>Morgan</b> .....	<b>07733 121535</b>
<b>Nottingham Uni Vet (Vicki)</b> .....	<b>07890 425800</b>
<b>Bryan</b> .....	<b>07506 139047</b>
<b>Nieves</b> .....	<b>07733 121530</b>
<b>Mirel</b> .....	<b>07807 474024</b>
<b>Laura</b> .....	<b>07733 121529</b>

## Congratulations!

**Several of our clients have won awards in the Cheshire Farms competition this year and we wanted to give them a special mention for all of their hard work!**

- D Venables, Holly Tree Farm - Lord Leverhulme Challenge Cup for holdings 350-600 acres
- G & PM Norbury (Mobberley Angus), Dairy Farm - Strutt and Parker Challenge Cup for Holdings less than 350 acres & Beef Breeding
- CS Royle and Son, Home Farm - Dairy Herd- Coloured - Pedigree or Commercial
- CW Shenton, Bridge Farm - Beef Breeding
- William Garners Farms Ltd, Hill Top Farm - Sheep Commercial
- Graham Parks, Overbank Farm - Farming Innovation

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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Veterinary Surgeons