



Yellow Wellies campaigns (Farm Safety Foundation)

Farm safety week always occurs in the 3rd week of July – this year it is the 22nd-26th July. It is a week to focus on all things health and safety and to reflect back on near misses or sadly more serious incidents. The Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation has some practical top

tips for dealing with hazards and on minimising risks.

Please have a look at the link below and help to look after everyone working on or around the farm.

A slightly lesser known campaign also run by Yellow Wellies is the Mind Your Head campaign. Whilst the main focus week runs in February we wanted to highlight some of the advice available given the extremely tough winter and so far not much better summer! It has been a hard past 12 months with excessive amounts of rain, Schmallenberg, the ever growing threat of bluetongue and the financial pressures involved not only with farming but every day life as well.

Farming is an inevitably isolating industry to be involved in and often other farmers or vets are the only people you will see regularly, whether that is at market or popping into our practice. We wanted you to know that we are always willing to listen over a brew whenever you feel the need to talk.

Signs of mental ill health from the Mind Your Head booklet available on the Yellow Wellies website.

Signs of mental ill health:

- Frequent illness/always run down
- Constant tiredness
- Increased irritability and showing of emotion
- Withdrawing from social engagement
- Indecision, inability to concentrate, making mistakes
- Loss of sense of humour
- Sudden weight changes
- **Something not quite right** – it is not always obvious so it is always worth asking!

Starting the conversation can be the hardest but most important thing to do. The Yellow Wellies website has plenty of ways to help start the conversation and helping you to understand how to listen. The most important things are allowing someone to talk uninterrupted, being genuine and not judging. Regular check ins after the initial conversation are a great way to make sure things are going in the right direction but signposting to mental health charities and organisations will always help. Alongside the Farm Safety Foundation we also have access to the Farming Community Network (FCN) and Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI). As mentioned before your vets and our office team are always happy to have a chat and further details are found on the Yellow Wellies website.

<https://www.yellowwellies.org/category/farmsafetyweek/>

You may not be aware that Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy run daytime and evening meet-ups and are running a mental health awareness afternoon on 2nd October 2024. Further details can be found on their website.

<https://www.agchap.com/>

On-farm slaughter certificate requirements

Please be aware that for emergency on farm slaughter for human consumption there is a legal requirement for the vet issuing the certificate to be present on farm at the same time as the slaughterman. We therefore recommend that you contact the slaughterhouse first to find out what time they are able to attend before contacting ourselves. Remember that to be considered eligible the animal must have suffered an acute injury that means it is unfit for transport. The animal must be clean and cannot be sick or suffering from a chronic condition such as lameness. If you are unsure of whether an animal is a candidate for a certificate then please contact us first to discuss it with a member of our team.



Sheep abortion vaccines

We are once again at the time of year when we start thinking about sheep abortion vaccines. This year the batch of Cevac Chlamydia vaccines have failed inspection. Whilst Enzovax is still available, we expect strain on supply.

Toxovax almost always requires orders to be in

as early as possible to ensure supply.

Both vaccines can be given up to 4 months prior to tupping so it is worthwhile planning early!

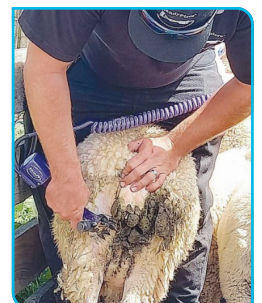
If you could give Katie a call on 01477 571000 to inform us of numbers required and/or place your order as early as possible it would greatly help us and you with hopefully sourcing all the doses required.

Ordering medicines

Whilst we appreciate you are all busy working and often want to pick up medicines whilst you are passing we are legally required to ensure all prescriptions that leave the practice are checked by a vet. We can do this remotely, however, it may take a while to get hold of a vet while on farm. If you order ahead, we will have the products ready when you arrive, meaning you avoid having to wait for a vet to be contacted. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Fly strike

As the warmer weather has finally started to arrive, with it we have noticed an increase in cases of fly strike. It is vitally important to check sheep daily at this time of year looking out for signs of



mucky fleeces, discomfort or isolation from the flock. If the shearers have not yet been or are not due for a few weeks it is worthwhile dagging/crutching (as shown in the photo) the back end of the sheep, as well as performing worm egg counts to reduce the risk of scour occurring from high worm burdens.

Fly control products should be applied to minimise the chances of fly strike taking hold. If you do notice any signs of fly strike give us a call as soon as possible and we can decide the best course of action. We have got very competitive prices now for fly control products so please do give us a call to see what prices we can do for you.

Biosecurity

As we move into the summer months it is a good time to review your biosecurity on farm. Although it is sometimes considered a 'tick box' exercise for farm assurance, it is a vitally important part of preventing disease spread both on and off farm.

What is biosecurity?

Biosecurity - reduces/prevents the introduction of new diseases onto a farm from outside sources. Biocontainment - reduces/prevents the movement of infectious diseases once they are on your farm.

Control visitors and vehicles on farm

Visitors and vehicles on farm can pose a massive risk to your stock, especially if they are interacting with areas that stock use. There are often multiple vehicles coming on and off farm each week, whether this be fallen-stock collectors, feed wagons or the vet's car. Vehicles should not come into contact with animal areas and should be parked on an area of concrete that can easily be washed off and disinfected. If they must be parked in animal areas then wheel washes should be available at entrance/exit points.

Foot washes and dips should be available at all times at entrances for visitors to use. These should be kept covered to decrease environmental contamination and changed regularly. Ideally all gross contamination should be washed off boots before using the foot dip.

The table below gives a good idea of dilution rates for some of the common disinfectant products found on farm; however, it is always a good idea to check the label as the rates can sometimes change. Please note that the TB dilution rate needed for your BT05 CND form is different to your boot dip dilution rate, please refer to the DEFRA approved disinfectant list for the approved products.

http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module=ApprovalsList_SI

Product	TB Dilution Rate (product: water)	Wheel and Boot dips (product: water)
Fam 30	1:14	1:90
Virophor 2.4%	1:14	1:185
Virkon S	Not DEFRA approved for TB	1:80
Virex	Not DEFRA approved for TB	1:100



Fallen stock

Fallen stock present a huge biosecurity risk. They can be reservoirs of infectious diseases, as well as attracting pests such as rodents and flies which can also carry disease onto farm. Poor handling of fallen stock can lead to contamination of equipment, vehicles and animal feeds.

Having a designated on farm collection point for fallen stock is crucial. Any of our vets will be able to give you guidance on a suitable area on your farm. The area should be:

- hard standing which can be cleaned and disinfected
- Where no discharges from fallen stock can contaminate feed or water courses.

- Away from any livestock
- Non-accessible to any farm dogs/cats or vermin such as rats, foxes and badgers
- Out of public view
- Easily accessible to the fallen-stock collector without them having to drive through the yard.

Equipment

Equipment can be the ideal vector for spreading disease between farms. Any shared equipment should be cleaned and disinfected before using it on your farm.

Double fencing

Neighbouring stock can also pose a risk to your cattle through nose to nose contact and contamination of water supplies. Double fencing should be used round the perimeter of your farm and at any boundaries with other stock. The gap should be a minimum of 2m wide (ideally 3m). Water sources that have run through neighbours fields should be fenced off to minimise the risk of water-borne disease being introduced onto your farm.

Isolation of stock

A designated isolation facility should be available at all times. This can be used for incoming stock, as well as those showing signs of illness. This area should be run as a completely separate unit, i.e. it should have its own water and air supply, foot dips at the entry/exit points and no shared equipment from other areas of your farm. This pen should be cleaned and disinfected between animals, and muck from this should not be spread on land used to produce forage or graze stock on.

Showing

With the summer show season well under way it is a good time for those of you involved to review your biosecurity.

Before the Show

- Preventative health plans – please give us a ring if you do not have a Herd/Flock health plan in place. It is an excellent investment to have an annual visit with one of our vets to help you plan for the year ahead and, as always, prevention is better than cure! Please get in touch if you would be interested in completing a tailored Herd Health Plan.
- Keep show animals penned separately so that they can be quarantined before and after being away for a show. This will also allow for you to monitor for any signs of illness before transporting your animals to the show.
- Ensure all equipment is cleaned and disinfected, this includes your trailer!
- Check Tb requirements before travelling.

At the Show

- Keep your distance from other stock and avoid nose to nose contact with other animals at the show – pen surrounds or booking additional pens to those needed are ideal for preventing nose-to-nose contact.
- Avoid sharing feed and equipment etc. with other exhibitors
- Use the boot dips provided when moving round the show.



After the Show

- Dispose of leftover bedding, hay and feed which you may have taken back from the show with you.
- Ensure that all equipment (including your trailer) and clothing is properly washed and disinfected.
- Keep show stock isolated from other stock for a minimum of 3 weeks.
- Carefully monitor show animals for any signs of illness or disease – please give us a ring if you have concerns.

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