

# nantwich farm vets



Crewe Road End  
Nantwich  
Cheshire  
CW5 5SF

24hr phone line: 01270 610349

August 2018

## Dates for your diary

8<sup>th</sup>  
**August**  
11.15am-2pm

**Medicine Course**  
suitable for Red Tractor  
standards. Contact office to book



## Nantwich Show Report

Congratulations to everyone who competed at Nantwich Show. We had a great day and enjoyed seeing everyone on the stand having a great time.

Congratulations to Mike and Gill Massey who won the hamper competition and Richard Harper who won the Swish.

Unfortunately our 'It's a knockout' team won their heat but were controversially beaten in the semi-final. Well done to Peter, Sarah, Amy and Steve for taking part!



### Finadyne suspended

Finadyne has been suspended because it contains diethanolamine (DEA). There may be a risk to humans from consuming food from animals treated with products containing DEA. Any finadyne you have on farm can still be used but we will not have any in stock available for purchase. Alternative non-steroidal anti-inflammatories are Metacam (120 hrs milk withdrawal, 15 days meat withdrawal) or Ketofen (0 milk withdrawal, Meat withdrawal IV: 1 day, IM: 4 days)

# TB update

- TB is on the increase
- NEW TB testing team employed to help with the workload
- NEW TB Advisory Service available for free

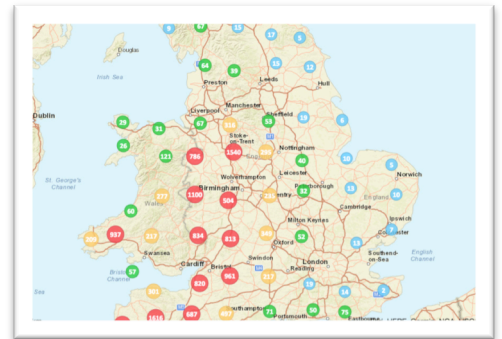
As you are all aware, Bovine TB is becoming an ever-increasing problem in our area. The factors driving the increased incidence of TB are numerous but at a recent meeting with APHA the top 5 are:

1. Increasing herd size (+fragmentation of land parcels)
2. Regular cattle movements (long and short range)
3. Significant badger activity
4. Herd hygiene/intercurrent disease
5. Stocking/grazing density increasing

As you are probably aware there are measures being introduced to deal with the wildlife infection in the area but currently new breakdowns are occurring at a scarily high rate. To put things into perspective: When we carried out annual herd tests as little as 3 years

ago, finding reactors was rare. We are now routinely finding reactors on between 3 and 10 farms every week. Either on farms under restriction or new breakdowns. This now means over 25% of our clients are under movement restrictions. Therefore, on these holdings every animal needs testing every 60 days. As you can imagine this equates to thousands of animals. Added to this all holdings in Cheshire now require a whole herd test every 6 months with this rule looking likely to be implemented for holdings in Shropshire in the near future too.

This is now putting a significant amount of pressure on our workload and it is becoming literally impossible for our clinical vets to fit in tests alongside routine



work as well as providing emergency care. Providing you with the best quality service for this type work is our main priority and if all our vets are busy TB testing unfortunately this cannot happen.

## TB Testers

It is a result of this that we have had to create a designated TB Team of vets to help with the TB testing workload. We now have a team of 3 full-time TB testers who will be dedicated to delivering our high standards of testing. All of the team are qualified vets and have had extensive TB training. Some of you will have met them already and we have had lots of great feedback.



We fully understand your TB test is a stressful time for all involved and having a vet you are familiar with makes this easier but we hope you understand this is just impossible to deliver with our current volume of testing.



### Skin Test problems

The skin test is a very specific test but not very sensitive. On average you would expect approximately one false reactor result for every 5,000 uninfected cattle tested.

However **one** skin test can miss 20-25% of cattle that are infected with TB. This is why all animals after a breakdown require 2 clear skin tests. One of the frustrations many people find is when reactors are slaughtered only 40% of them will have visible lesions. This does **not** mean they didn't have TB. This was because the animal was in the early stages of infection with *M. bovis* when TB lesions are too small or infrequent to be observed by the naked eye.

Please help our vets to do the

test as well as possible to ensure that we are not making the accuracy of the test any worse. Not all lumps can be seen so every animal (except very small calves) must go through the crush on the reading day to enable the vet to feel their skin.

### TB Advisory Service

A couple of months back vets Rob and John Manson attended a training day in Somerset so that they could offer a TB advisory service to our clients. We are also hoping to get an additional two more vets trained in the next month. All cattle keepers in the High Risk or Edge Area in England are entitled to this service. This has the potential to be invaluable to many of our clients. Whether you are currently under restriction, been closed up in the past or never had TB there is invaluable advice to be had on all sorts of aspects of TB risk. It can be done in one of two forms:

**Telephone advice** whereby certain aspects of TB risk or control can be discussed. All we then have to do is log all your details as well as what was discussed. You may get a follow

up phone call to enquire about the usefulness of the advice given and whether you have acted upon the advice.

**A farm visit** which would last 2-3 hours. We will spend time looking round all your buildings, feed storage area as well as areas of the farm where you regularly graze cattle. We will look at possible badger setts, runs and latrines to look for evidence of level of badger activity. Following this we will then sit down for about an hour and go through a risk assessment questionnaire looking at all aspects of TB risk and control. Four recommendations will be made off which they are aiming for 75% compliance. Again there will be follow up phone calls.

This service is completely free to all clients, but the funding won't be there forever so we are being encouraged to utilise it while we can. If you would like to know anymore about it either call Rob or John Manson.

Also please visit [www.tbhub.co.uk](http://www.tbhub.co.uk) for lots of information and practical advice on TB.

If you want to know the TB status of the farms in your area or are considering purchasing cattle visit [www.ibtb.co.uk](http://www.ibtb.co.uk) where you can search the TB history of a herd using either a postcode or CPH number.





### Vets Mobile Numbers

Dave Shaw	07836335185
Rob George	07773384450
John Manson	07813690860
John Yarwood	07814879109
Stuart Russell	07770448179
Peter Duncalfe	07717780604
Laura Donovan	07800647608
Steven Crowe	07891843694
Liz Wynne	07767447281
Mike Wilkinson	07866257014
Jake Lawson	07891843573
Amy Cox	07966833870
Sarah Williamson	07812173942
Joe Mitchell	07773342345



"@NantwichFarmVet"

## FREE TB Advice

Are you a cattle keeper  
in the High Risk or Edge  
Area of England?

If so, you can now access free tailored advice to reduce the risk and impact of TB on your farm.

Experienced farm consultants from the TB Advisory Service are available to give advice by telephone or during an on-farm visit around all aspects of TB, including wildlife ecology, biosecurity, building design, movements and trading options bespoke to your business and farm set-up.

The service is funded by Defra through Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

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 @TB\_Advisory

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