

# nantwich farm vets



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Nantwich  
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CW5 5SF

24hr phone line: 01270 610349

December 2016

## Dates for your diary

**9<sup>th</sup>  
December** **Farm client Christmas party**  
Worleston village hall 

12<sup>th</sup>  
December  
7.30pm Weston Discussion Group  
"Sustainable Dairy Farming"  
Betley village hall



20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>  
March Dairyland Foot Trimming  
Course  
Contact Steve to book a place



*Merry Christmas from us all at Nantwich Vets*

We look forward to seeing you all on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December at our Christmas party for beef baps, festive drinks and Christmas cheer!

As we approach Christmas please remember to book in any medicines drop-offs and pre-movement tests well in advance – we can't do any testing after 20<sup>th</sup> December until 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

### Christmas Office Opening Hours (24hr emergency service still available)

Christmas eve	8.30am – 1pm	New Year's Eve	8.30am – 1pm
Christmas Day	<b>Closed</b>	New Year's Day	<b>Closed</b>
Boxing Day	<b>Closed</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 - 12.30pm
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 12.30pm		

## BEWARE: Schmallerberg Virus (SBV)

Based on routine testing it looks like Schmallerberg virus has been through our area at some point this autumn. We haven't had any reports of clinical signs as yet but deformities may not present themselves until calving/lambing time. Unfortunately it is now a waiting game to see what the spring brings, please let us know if you think you have had a suspect case.



# Bovine TB



**Steve Crowe** recently took an online course on TB disease transmission risks, as well as steps you can take to reduce it coming into your herd or reduce the impact it has once it has already arrived

As TB becomes more common, biosecurity is obviously the first issue to address. There are ways to improve it on nearly every farm. This includes everything from reducing the number of animals you buy in, or choosing where you buy them from more carefully and quarantining those animals on arrival, to improving disinfection of workers and equipment when moving between groups of animals or to another farm.

See below a few points which all seem obvious, but might just get you thinking about some of the ways you can reduce the impact of TB, and other diseases, to your farm:

When grazing, use water and feed troughs that are raised off the ground, by at least 70cm, with vertical sides, to prevent wildlife (badgers...) from urinating and defaecating in them.

Fence off known badger setts and latrines with several strands of electric fencing. (The most common site for badger-cow contact at pasture is at badger latrines, where the badger marks its territory)

When housed, it's easier than you think to make housing badger proof; ensure doors reach the floor by fitting heavy duty rubber matting to the bottoms, and remove gaps up the sides of fencing/gateways: a badger can squeeze through a gap of 7.5cm (3 inches!), don't make their life easy!

Place 2-3 strands of electric fence wire around feeding areas/feed storage areas to prevent wildlife gaining entry, they don't like electricity! Better still, close off feed stores completely when not being used.

If you happen to find a dead badger by the side of the road, local universities are collecting and analysing them. Visit [www.nottingham.ac.uk/vet/badgerTB](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/vet/badgerTB) for more information.

Unfortunately we are finding TB on more and more farms. Each breakdown we find means (at least) 2 more tests 60 days apart until that farm is open up, as well as neighbouring farms being required to test. Therefore, your cows will be tested more frequently regardless of whether or not you have TB! This might be a good time to consider how you

could improve your handling facilities to speed up your TB test, as well as making it safer for you, your staff, (your vet!!) and your animals. This doesn't have to be expensive; a half decent race with a well-designed crush can make the world of difference, ask us for our advice! We test a lot of cows in a lot of different setups; we know what works and what doesn't.

If your test is due, prepare for the worst but hope for the best! Sell any barrens you're likely to want to sell in the next few weeks, get those bull calves to market before you test. Any steps you can take to reduce the impact of being "shut up with TB" are well worth it! But lastly, don't worry! There are lots of options available to herds should the worst happen, have a word with any of us about any concerns you might have, we're here to help.

On that note, there is an information day on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December** on how to improve biosecurity on your farm that includes lunch! Let me or the office staff know if you're interested in attending.

# Lice or Mange?

## Lice

Lice are parasites that complete their entire life-cycle on the animal. Transfer of lice between animals or herds is usually by direct physical contact. Because lice do not survive for long off the animal, usually about 3-5 days depending on weather, the potential for animals to pick up infestations from dirty housing is limited. Lice and eggs are easily found by parting the hair, especially along the midline. The lice are present next to the skin and the eggs are scattered like coarse powder throughout the hair.



The heaviest infestations are seen in late winter and early spring, when the coat is at its thickest, giving a sheltered, bulky and humid habitat for optimal multiplication. The most rapid annual increase in louse populations is seen when cattle are winterhoused and lice numbers can build up quickly. In late spring, there is usually an abrupt fall in the numbers of lice as most of the parasites and eggs are shed with the winter coat. Numbers generally remain low throughout the summer, partly because the thinness of the coat provides a restricted habitat, but partly because high skin surface temperatures and direct sunlight limit multiplication and may even

be lethal.

A range of pour-on or spot-on synthetic pyrethroids (e.g. *Spot-on* and *Swish*) are available for louse control, with pour-on macrocyclic lactones (MLs) also commonly used (e.g. *Eprizero*, *Enovex* and *Dectomax*). Injectables only have limited activity against lice. Most insecticides registered for use on cattle are not active against louse eggs. This means that after treatment eggs can still hatch and these newly hatched nymphs must be killed by the residual effects of the treatment. If, however, the residual efficacy of the product applied is short, less than two weeks, the newly hatched nymphs can continue the infestation. Where this is the case, a second treatment will be required.

The timing and frequency of treatments depends on individual circumstances. In many cases treatment in late autumn or early winter will give adequate control of cattle lice. Louse control is usually undertaken when cattle are housed for the winter and may be achieved alongside treatment for other parasites. Treatment of all stock on farm and subsequent initial quarantine and treatment of all newly introduced animals will allow a good degree of louse control to be maintained. Nevertheless, resistance is a growing problem and reduced susceptibility to pyrethroids has already been reported from herds throughout the UK so please talk to a vet if you are still having problems.

## Mange

The commonest mange affecting UK cattle is caused by the mite *Chorioptes bovis*. In cattle, chorioptic mange occurs most often in housed animals, particularly dairy animals. Mite populations are highest in the winter and may regress over summer. It is most commonly seen on the feet, legs and base of the tail and udder.



Cattle with low densities of mites present can show no symptoms and thus act as carriers that transfer the mite to other animals. The precise off host survival of *Chorioptes* mites is not definitively known, but is likely to be at least three weeks, depending on temperature and humidity. As yet, no resistance has been recorded in *Chorioptes* mites in Europe.

Pour-on MLs e.g. *Epizero*, *Enovex* and *Dectomax* are best for treatment of mange, injectable MLs are generally less effective. Considering the mites can survive in the environment for some time it is advisable to move the animals after treatment to a different building or field. Treatment of all animal in-contact animals is essential to eradicate mange.





### Vets Mobile Numbers

Dave Shaw	07836335185
Rob George	07773384450
John Manson	07813690860
John Yarwood	07814879109
Colin Baxter	07860605079
Stuart Russell	07770448179
Peter Duncalfe	07717780604
Laura Donovan	07800647608
Steven Crowe	07891843694
Liz Davies	07767447281
Mike Wilkinson	07866257014
Jake Lawson	07866257014
Amy Cox	07966833870
James Patterson	07774795700

### Vet Technician

Jess Tonks	07921855043
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"@NantwichFarmVet"



## Critically important antibiotics

The World Health Organization is particularly keen to preserve certain classes of antibiotic that are crucial for use in human infections because doctors are quickly running out of options to treat resistant infections like MRSA.

The development of resistance to antibiotics is an inevitable consequence of over use. The more a particular antibiotic is used; the more pressure there is for bacteria to become resistant to it. Often, it is not the bacteria causing the infection itself which are the problem, but gut bacteria that are exposed to the antibiotic at the same time in which resistance develops.

### Which antibiotics are important?

#### Fluoroquinolones

Marbocyl  
Baytril/Baytril Max  
Advocin/A180  
Forcyl

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation cephalosporins

Cobactan injection  
Cobactan MC tubes  
Cefimam DC  
Ceftiocyl  
Naxcel

#### Macrolides

Tylan  
Draxxin  
Lincocin injection  
Lincocin powder  
Zactran  
Micotil  
Erythrocin powder

In some cases these drugs might be the most appropriate for your situation but it's worth discussing with a vet whether you may be able to use an alternative product.