

nantwich farm vets



Crewe Road End
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 5SF

24hr phone line: 01270 610349

March 2017

Dates for your diary

15th March
10am-2pm "What's in my medicine cupboard?" Responsible use of antibiotics

£60 per place. Call the office to book.

20th -23rd March
Dairyland Foot Trimming Course

****THIS IS NOW FULL****

We are hoping to run another course in the autumn subject to demand. Please contact Steve Crowe to enquire about a place.



BIRD FLU NEWS

Although we don't deal with commercial poultry flocks, we know many of our clients have backyard hens. As of 1st March 2017, if you are **not** in a "Higher Risk Area" you can allow your hens outside provided you follow the DEFRA guidance to reduce contact of your hens with wild birds. If you are in a "Higher Risk Area" you must keep them housed unless you have a run that is completely covered by netting. To check what area you are in you need to visit www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu and view the interactive map. In the meantime keep a look out for signs of the disease which include swollen head, blue discolouration of neck and throat, loss of appetite, respiratory distress such as gaping beak, coughing, sneezing, gurgling, rattling, diarrhoea, fewer eggs and death. Please keep checking the website for the most up-to-date information.

NEW Powdered Colostrum

We are now stocking Natural Bovine Colostrum from the Saskatoon Colostrum Company Ltd. Each bag contains 100 grams of bovine globulins and can be used to replace or supplement cows colostrum. Colostrum is the single most important factor governing the future survival and health of the young calf so it is probably worth having this in stock in case you are short.

Cost £27.50 per bag OR £375 for a box of 15

Preventing TB in your herd

Laura Donovan recently attended a TB Farm Advice workshop for vets at Reaseheath College. This month she discusses what she learnt about bovine TB prevention



Their key message was to say if you don't have TB on your farm currently, please don't sit back and wait for it to happen. If you have TB it would help to try and work out the infection source(s) then look at what simple actions can be taken to reduce the impact of TB.

In 2015, APHA found that 36% of breakdowns in Edge areas were from purchased cattle, and 45% were from local exposure. The on farm workshop highlighted the importance of the 'Five Point Plan' with the mnemonic '**MR & MRS**' to reduce the risk of TB on farms.

Manage cattle feed and water

Raise troughs off the ground and seal food stores to prevent badger access. One fact mentioned was that for every 10 hectares of maize grown and fed to cows the risk of TB on farm increases by 20%.



and latrines.

To keep badgers out of sheds/silage clamps place 3 strands of electric fencing at 10, 15 and 20cm heights or a 1.5m sheer surface fence less than 7.5cm off the ground.

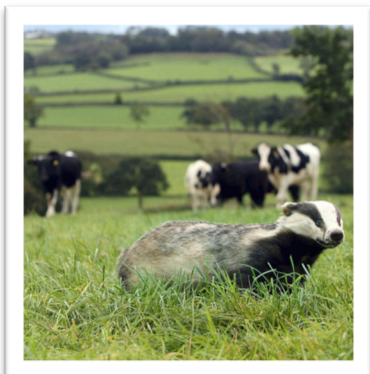


Minimise infection from cattle manure

The organism that causes TB can live in amoeba in cattle slurry for years. Avoid spreading manure on grazing fields, don't spread manure from other farms and try to minimise aerosol risk when spreading.

Restrict contact between badgers and cattle

As badgers start out on a run from their setts they dribble urine for up to 10m. Try to place electric fences 10m around badger setts, runs



Reduce risk from neighbouring herds

Use www.tbhub.co.uk to find practical advice on dealing with bovine TB covering everything from biosecurity measures to understanding trading rules. The TB hub also has links to other websites including www.ibtb.co.uk.

The ibTB mapping website allows you to see the dates of TB breakdowns on all neighbouring farms, simply zoom in until you can identify your own farm buildings, click on the dot over the affected farm and the date of the breakdown will appear.



Now that this information is easy to access, the improved knowledge of current breakdowns means that you can base management decisions around them e.g. which of your fields to use as grazing land/arable. In addition, don't share equipment with neighbours, avoid shared grazing and if you can, allow 3m double fencing to neighbours.

Stop infected cattle entering the herd

Ask about TB history when purchasing cattle, check them with post movement testing and use isolation to reduce the chances of introducing infection.

Recent Changes

A couple of new things have been introduced over the last few months. Farmers with a new herd breakdown will receive a TB Farm Data Pack from APHA.

This contains a huge amount of information about your herd, all TB testing history for the last 5 years, all cattle movement history into your herd for the last 5 years and all TB breakdowns in the past 10 years.

If you receive one and would like some help interpreting it please ask! The idea is that by analysing all the data in a new case we may be able to identify the source of infection to help reduce the impact that TB has in the herd.

CHeCS accreditation for TB was launched in November 2016 and may be suitable for a small number of our clients.



The scoring system is based on TB history on the farm:

0 The herd is Officially TB free at this point but has had a TB breakdown within the past year.

1-9 The score corresponds to the number of years since the herd regained Officially TB Free (OTF) status after a breakdown.

10 10 years or more since the last bTB breakdown within the herd.

In England, around 68% of all cattle herds (around 35,000) have never had a bTB herd breakdown or have not had one in the past 10 years.

If you would like to discuss how you can better protect your farm from the risk of TB please ask any of the vets and we would be happy to do a farm walk and create an action plan for you.



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
Sarah Williamson	07812173942

Vet Technician

Jess Tonks	07921855043
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"@NantwichFarmVet"



Action Johne's Conference 2017

What is your control strategy?

1. Biosecurity protect and monitor

This option is suitable for herds that have done herd screening tests and have no evidence of Johne's. A robust biosecurity protocol must be in place to minimise the risk of bringing the disease in, which covers sourcing cattle, slurry and grazing management. Surveillance testing is required to monitor the herd status and detect entrance of disease.

2. Improved farm management

This option relies on breaking the cycle of disease spread from cow to calf through management changes implemented across EVERY cow in the herd. These changes will concentrate on calving, colostrum and milk management. No individual cow testing is undertaken and so ALL cows must be treated as if they are infected and a risk.

3. Improved farm management and strategic testing

This option uses individual cow testing to identify those cows most at risk of spreading the disease and implementing management changes to reduce disease spread for these cows only. This allows the management changes to be targeted at those cows that pose the highest risk whilst allowing normal management of the remainder of the herd

4. Improved farm management Test and Cull

In addition to the Improved farm management & strategic testing option with immediate culling of test positives. This option is only suitable for herds with very few positive cows.

5. Breed to terminal sire

No replacements bred. Does not reduce disease in the herd or disease effects but this may be the only option if a farm cannot improve management to reduce spread to replacement calves.

6. Firebreak vaccination

Not recommended in most circumstances. The vaccine can prolong the life of an infected cow but it does not reduce spread of the disease.