

ONE YEAR ON.....

Our first year in practice has been an amazing year. Things have gone better than we could have hoped or expected. We must, therefore, say a big thank you to all our clients who have believed in our practice and we look forward to working with you all for many years to come. We would also like to thank everyone else who has helped us out in the beginning and on the way. There is so much 'behind the scenes' work that goes on and we couldn't do it without them. We consider our "back room" staff as vital to our operation and we are lucky to have Rach and John who continue to keep us in check, in coffee and chocolate and on time (mostly!!).



New members of the team. As you will know from last months newsletter, due to the practice expanding we have employed another full-time vet, Helen, who starts in September and a part-time vet, Lorraine, to join the team. Both are local to Norfolk and have a good sense of humour, which is essential in this practice, and both are interested primarily in farm work.

What Have We Been Up to?.....

Our clients now span the length and breadth of Norfolk. In addition we are doing consultancy work for both cattle and sheep farmers in Essex, Suffolk and Lincs. Alongside the clinical and consultancy work we undertake we have been pleased to accept invitations over the past year to give talks entitled "All about kidding", "Heat detection in dairy cows", "Prescriptions: are they worth the hassle" and "Pregnancy diagnosis – can we save you money?" We are also booked to give talks on "What's new in the sheep world" and "Stock on wetlands" in the next few months.

Norfolk Farm Vets Ltd. won a DEFRA bid this spring to roll out the benefits of Herd Health Planning across Central England from Norfolk to Cheshire. Through collaboration with 4 other practices across Central England via farmer meetings we hope to help farmers understand the importance of using the information available to them to improve the productivity on their farms by increasing health and welfare standards.

We held our first "meeting" at the Royal Norfolk Show in the Stockmen's bar on the Wednesday night where we ran a quiz on cattle health to see who knew what and who didn't know as much as they thought they did! Out of a max score of 13 the top score was 8! The top 5 entrants went through to a head to head knockout quiz and first prize of £150 was won by Paul Walker, Staffordshire, 2nd Prize of £50 went to Jo Cooke and 3rd prize of £25 went to Harrisons of Lakenheath.

A few memorable moments from the last year

- Obviously the most memorable moment was the establishment of Norfolk Farm Vets. We are over the moon that the first few tentative steps are over and that we're pushing on to offer a better service than ever.
- In November we were delighted and honoured to be invited to attend the official opening of Sandringham Beef and Lamb in West Newton. The shop, run by Tony and Anne Barratt, received the royal seal of approval from HRH The Prince of Wales.
- We were very pleased to be able to sponsor the Goat and Simmental classes at this years Royal Norfolk Show. They were a great couple of days and it was very satisfying to be part of it.
- The decision to take part in the Round Norfolk Relay has proved to be a good one and it's been great to get so many people running and such a good team spirit going.
- In March we sponsored and also gave two of the talks at the North Norfolk Livestock Club meeting. The turn out of nearly seventy people was excellent and we hope everyone who made it enjoyed the evening. Thanks of course to Stephen Temple for his talk on calf hutches and to the ladies from Leeds Vet Labs for their input.
- We have made it into the papers a few times, initially as a result of Norfolk Farm Vets beginning and more recently with an article on Bull Fertility. The more speedy of the runners have also featured in the Shouldham Race results over the winter.



NORFOLK FARM VETS

Reduce food miles, support your local producers.

Local Producers

As I'm sure you are aware, we are dedicated supporters of local produce and the reduction of food miles. A number of our clients market their produce in various ways and we thought this would be a good opportunity to highlight some of these.

Dairy

- **Mrs Temple's Cheese**, a hugely successful brand which everyone must have heard of by now. Mrs Temple's cheese is all produced at the dairy in Wighton using milk produced by the Temples dairy herd. Mrs Temple is regularly in the press promoting all the different varieties they produce. The Cheese is widely available from delicatessens etc and also at the Fakenham Farmers' Market.
- **Pointens Dairy** in Stody is another well-known, long established family business. Again, only milk from their own herd is used to produce the whole range from fresh milk to cream, yoghurts and ice cream which are available from the farm or from a number of local outlets.
- **Simon Dann** has recently branched out into the ice-cream business. He now produces "Norfolk Farm House Ice-Cream" and having tried some at the Norfolk Show I'm sure he will be very successful

Beef etc.

- **Houghton Organic**
Carwyn continues to sell his organic Longhorn Beef and his lamb to local pubs and restaurants as well as via the Fakenham Farmers' Market. His mutton has become very popular again and seems to be having a revival.
- **Duncan Jeary**
Duncan's Aberdeen Angus herd continues to grow to match the ever increasing demand for the beef he produces. As well as supplying local businesses he can always be found at a Farmers' Market with both fresh meat and cooked burgers. He also keeps the whole family busy with his hog roasts and barbeques.
- **Tony Barratt**
Since its official opening by HRH the Prince of Wales last year, Sandringham Beef and Lamb in West Newton has continued to flourish. Tony and Anne stock their home produced Redpoll beef and homebred lamb reared on the Royal Sandringham Estate, along with local organic veg. and general groceries.
- **Gavin Lane**
Together with his brother Benedict, Gavin has recently set up Salt Marsh Beef. They already supply a local restaurant and sell the beef via a box scheme both locally and further a field. For more information visit their website: www.saltmarshbeef.co.uk
- **Courtyard Farms**
Home produced organic Redpoll beef, lamb and pork can be bought direct from the farm at Ringstead as well as through some local shops. They also supply other businesses in the area.
- **Trevor Stebbings**
Trevor and Kate's herd of Aberdeen Angus cattle in Pott Row continues to produce high quality beef. Trevor sells this both from home and via Farmers' Markets.
- **The Firs**
The Days of Hindolveston sell a wide variety of home produce from lamb to vegetables and eggs etc. You can buy direct from the farm gate or from Farmers' Markets.
- **Godwick Hall**
John and Robert Garner continue running their successful flock and produce homebred lamb. The Christmas turkey business is expanding yearly as the demand for the locally reared birds increases both in Norfolk and further afield.



NORFOLK FARM VETS

Round Norfolk Relay



Not long to go now all you runners!!

With 2 months to go until the Round Norfolk Relay, the runners are beginning to feel that Norfolk is a very large county and not the flat county it is held up to be! Training has been going well with the runners meeting on Sunday mornings to run a different leg of the course each week. The present line up is:

Leg	Runner	Cycle/buddy	Distance (miles)
1	GARY ZOLLER	JAYNE	16.3
2	MOLLY MCKAY	JIMMY	14.06
3	SAM PHELPS	DAVID COLE- MAN	5.39
4	WILL STEVENSON	HARRY	12.76
5	JOHN PHELPS	JOHNNY	8.61
6	DUNCAN JEARY		7.61
7	JOHN BRAY	RACHEL	9.24
8	SIMON DANN		7.52
9	FREDDIE FRENCH		11.3
10	CARWYN JAMES	MOLLY	15.08
11	ROGER SAYLE	PHILLIPA	19.6
12	ROSS HADDOW	HADDOW	18.37
13	ANDY MARSH	WENDY	13.98
14	GAVIN LANE	WENDY	8.8
15	CHARLIE COLLI- SON	EMMA	7.2
16	RUBY WRIGHT		5.49
17	JULIAN HOWARD		11.73

However, injuries may yet alter the team. As you can see there are still a few cycling spots free if anyone is feeling brave.

We will start from King's Lynn as team number 1 early Saturday morning, 15th September, and make our way around Norfolk to complete some 24 hours plus later. It makes a huge difference to hear voices cheering you on and revives weary legs, so please find out where the route is nearest to you and come out and cheer the guys on.

The support team is vital and we would like to thank in advance all those who have offered to help get water to the runners, collect people at the end of their legs, and keep the minibus stacked with chocolate and coffee!!!

As you are aware we are trying to raise both the profile of Norfolk Produce and raise some money for the RABI (Farmers' Benevolent Fund). We are hoping to set up a BBQ at the finish alongside a stall showcasing and selling Norfolk Produce, so if you want your produce there let us know. Otherwise all are welcome, the more the merrier, at the finish to cheer the team home and join us for a drink and something to eat.



Other News

BVD ERADICATION SCHEME

The BVD eradication scheme is now in full operation and despite a few teething problems with the SAC we believe that it has certainly proved to be a benefit to our clients. It is rare, and quite frankly stupid, nowadays to hire or purchase a bull, heifers or cows without knowing their disease status with respect to the major infectious diseases. For all the vendors of stock, being classified as BVD free has oiled the wheels of many a sale by reducing the necessity to do further testing and wait for results. For purchasers, buying from an accredited herd brings huge peace of mind from knowing that productivity is less likely to be compromised by the introduction of disease.

We have 17 farms presently in the BVD accreditation scheme with a further 2 units awaiting sampling. Of these 17, 12 showed no evidence of BVD on farm at the initial screen (2 of these vaccinated historically and have since removed the disease), 4 are now in the process of eradicating BVD (2 with the aid of vaccination), and 1 farm is monitoring the situation.

Although eradication does have a financial cost in terms of laboratory analysis or vaccination the benefits certainly outweigh the costs in terms of improvements in health and growth rate of the calves, the conception rates in the cows and a reduction in pneumonia.

SUCCESS RATES

Since starting the practice we have noticed that in order to make a more informed decision as to whether it is worth calling us to a calving, more information is needed. As a result, we have calculated the success rates with regard to cow and calf survival for all the calvings and caesareans we have completed, along with some other statistics.

- Firstly, and we're sure you'll correct us if we're wrong, as far as we are aware, if the calf has been alive on our arrival, it has always been alive on our departure. I.e. no calves have died during either a calving or a caesarean.
- 88% of cows have survived long term after a calving, and 85% following a caesarean.
- In all of the cows that died following a calving, the calf was dead on our arrival. I.e. 100% of cows we have calved with a live calf have survived. Furthermore, this means that in all calvings where both dam and calf are alive on arrival, both have survived.
- The calf has been dead on arrival in 50% of the calvings we have attended, and in 35% of the caesareans we have carried out.
- We have assisted with only two sets of twins.

We will continue to collect and analyse this data over the coming years. We hope to be able to calculate not only the short term survival of the cows but also the long term survival in terms of production and holding in calf this year. This is of course the aim of our intervention.



Caption Competition

As you all know we held a competition to win 5 Norfolk Show tickets by sending in your captions ideas for this picture.

The winning captions were;

Andy Gray—"Molly got balls, no bull"

Mr & Mrs Hall—"Molly says " I don't know Will but I think you should go and see your own doctor"

Palmer's—"Beckham the prize bull is a top scorer due to his golden balls!!"

Mr & Mrs Chubbock—"Squeeze me please me"

Andy Marsh—"Unprintable due to libel but very funny!!!!"

Drug Orders.....

We have recently changed wholesalers and they do not deliver until mid afternoon the following day, so for any orders placed please call the office to make sure your order has arrived before coming in to save you a trip.

Royal Norfolk Show

The Norfolk Show is always a highlight of the farming year and 2007 was no exception. It's always great to see so many of our clients attending, whether it be as exhibitors, award winners or just as visitors. We were attending in a slightly more official guise than in former years as we sponsored the goat classes and the Simmentals. As a result, most people had to be convinced that it was us and not imposters as the sight of Will in a tie and Molly in her wedding hat were more than most could cope with! This, however, worked both ways when some people we normally only see from the wrong end of a cow appeared in the Stockmans Bar in their glad rags without a wellie boot in sight.

There was a good turn out in all the classes with good results for a number of our clients.

Beef cattle:

Duncan Jeary had another good show with his Angus. He took female and supreme champion as well as first in Norfolk bred and cow in calf or milk. He had a second with his Bull born before Jan 1 2005. He also took reserve champion in Native female and reserve Pair in the Beef Interbreed as well as branching out to take the reserve championship in Commercial beef.

John Allison had a good day with his Lims. taking reserve female champion and Norfolk Bred. He had a second in cow in calf or with calf at foot and a third with his maiden heifer. In Beef Cattle Continental Breeds he took both female and supreme champion and a first with his heifer.

Carwyn was pleased with his Cholmondeley Longhorns taking the reserve female and reserve supreme championships. He had a first with his calf at foot as well as a second with his cow with calf at foot.

The **Simmental** line up was impressive and hotly contested. JR and MA Carter took the female, male and supreme championships. There were other firsts for SD Abram, A Hurn and M Robinson. The Mitchells also had good results.

Sheep:

As ever, **Bridget** did well with her Castlemilk Moorits in the Primitive Breed classes. She took winner and reserve in the Norfolk Bred category, second Ram Lamb and first in the group.

Also in the primitive breed section, **Lynn Collison** took the male and supreme championship as well as first ram lamb and second group.

Suzannah Coke and **Kerry Long** had an excellent show with their Norfolk Horns. They had firsts in Ram 2 shear or over, Shearling Ram, Ram Lamb, Ewe Lamb and Group of Three. Along with other seconds and thirds they took Male Champion, Reserve Male Champion, Reserve Female Champion and Breed Champion. They also impressively won the NSA Eastern Region Rare and Primitive Group of Three.

Goats:

There was a great turn out of goat keepers, with even the Golden Guernseys having a representative. Many of our clients had a good show and while we know some of the results we have not yet got a full results list. We will publish the full results next month. One thing that is for sure is that there was a lot of interest from prospective new goat keepers. This is great news as we need the next generation of goat keepers to start now so that goat keeping remains strong in Norfolk. Tiff and Judith Hall were also in attendance with a display of information about their Boers and a number of fine examples in the pens to catch peoples' attention. They also had a lot of enquiries and interest about their 'funny looking' goats.

Pigs:

We had one client entered in the pig classes. **Lester Knight** took first in the pair of coloured pigs from 70-90Kg and thirds in Single Pork 50-70Kg and Single Cutter 70-82Kg. This was an excellent debut into the world of showing for Lester – long may it last.

Long Service Award:

This award is presented to people who have devoted a huge chunk of their lives to farming in the area and it's always great to see peoples' years of hard graft recognised in such a way. This year **Murray Woodhouse**, along with 16 other men, was presented with a very well deserved long service award for his 43 years service. The award was presented by the show President Sir Nicholas Bacon at the President's Pavillion.

