



NORFOLK FARM VETS

NEWSLETTER

October 2007 No16.



ARRIVAL of BLUETONGUE

Unfortunately with the arrival of Bluetongue in East Anglia, Norfolk and Suffolk have been classed as 'A Blue Tongue Control Zone'. There has been some confusion with movement restrictions. As this is written, farm-to-farm movements are allowed with the relevant licences and under strict conditions. As ever, see the DEFRA website for up to date news as this is a rapidly changing situation. www.defra.gov.uk

Extra vigilance is needed to ensure that any cases of this disease are caught early and dealt with appropriately. Bluetongue is a disease of **ruminants** (i.e. cattle, sheep, deer and goats - not pigs) and is spread by **midges**, not animal to animal, (*except possibly in semen*) - unlike Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Therefore disease control/prevention is different from FMD and whole herd culls are not used. The only things you can do to reduce disease risk is to use insecticide pour-ons, treat midge breeding grounds (e.g. dung heaps) and avoid grazing wet areas particularly under trees.

Clinical signs are similar to FMD and much more obvious in sheep where the death rate can be as high as 70%.

Sheep:

- Eye and nasal discharge.
- Drooling due to mouth ulcers.
- High body temperature.
- Swelling of mouth, head and neck.
- Lameness.
- Haemorrhages into or under the skin.
- Inflammation of the coronary band.
- Respiratory problems.

Cattle:

- **OFTEN NO SIGNS**
- Nasal discharge.
- Swelling of head and neck.
- Conjunctivitis.
- Swelling in, and ulceration of, the mouth.
- Swollen teats.
- Tiredness.
- Drooling saliva.

It is a DEFRA requirement to inspect your stock twice a day and report any suspect Bluetongue or FMD cases asap.

Round Norfolk Relay

We made it! A huge congratulations to everyone who took part, as runners, support staff, cyclists etc. Completing the course is a huge achievement in itself, but we actually made it round only 52 minutes over our estimation!

We must mention a few people without who's help the event wouldn't have been such a success. Of course Molly for initially having the idea and then organising us all and Jim for being a huge support and help all the way through, and then timekeeping for the whole 28 hours without a single slip up. Wendy Marsh was support member extraordinaire for supporting nearly every training run and supplying us with chocolate and some more unusual training aids. Jayne Parsey and Gary Zoller supplied the 'passion wagon' for the event and Jayne did a huge 22 hours in the bus. It was great to see everyone at the end—a lot of bleary eyes and limps—and we must thank Duncan and Tracey Jeary for not only running the barbeque but doing it as a freebee.

Finally, thank you to all the other support people and of course to the people mad enough to put on their trainers and actually run.

We are still waiting on some sponsorship so don't have a total raised for the RABI—watch this space. To that end, if you still have some sponsorship outstanding please get it to us at the office, or if you would like to send any sponsorship there's still time!

Believe it or not—nearly the whole team from this year has signed up for next year's race! Some legs may change and some will stay the same—with Jim's added incentive that it's 10 press-ups for every second you run slower than this year! Anyway, if you have been inspired by the amazing achievement of this year's team and would like to be a part of it next year, either as a runner or in another capacity, please let us know—maybe we'll have an A and a B team...

Running will continue for lots of this year's team, and the Shouldham races start Sunday 7th October and Jim has invited any of the team who wish to join training at LynnSport every Monday and Thursday 7pm. We must also wish Ross and James Haddow and Gary Zoller luck in the Dublin Marathon.

Thanks again to everyone and we'll see you next year!

Contact details: Telephone 01485 609031 Fax: 01485 609029. Emergency: 07920104174

e-mail: norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com

FOR SALE:

Wiltshire Horn & Easy Care Rams for sale

No wool, no shearing, no flies:

Contact: Tony Barratt 01485 541440.

Aberdeen Angus Young Bull.

Contact Duncan Jeary: 07880 508104.

The Training Association EAST

Transport of Animals by Road - regulations coming into force in Jan 08:

Courses: 2nd Nov - Watton
5th Nov - Fakenham
7th Dec - Fakenham
10th Dec - Watton

Do I need to take this test? You do if you transport your animals more than 40 miles from home. The course and test is done all on the same day - spaces still available
Contact Jayne Parsey, Phone: 01485 600225

Email: Jayne@traineast.co.uk

CONGRATULATIONS

The pregnancy diagnosis season is here again on beef herds. Our first congratulations of the season goes to **Grove Farm** who had only 1 of 95 cows & heifers not in calf. All the heifers were pregnant having been synchronised then AI'd before finishing with the bull. If you haven't booked in your PD's yet then give us a call - everyone should be looking to get 95% of their cows in calf to one 9-12 week service period.

Also congratulations to **Barry Brooks** and team at **Beckhithe farms**, Reedham and **Douglas Pickup** from **Cley Hall Farms** et. al who have been nominated for Farmer's Weekly Beef Farmer of the year and Farm Manager of the year respectively. This is in itself an enormous honour and we wish them all best of luck in the final vote!

Parasite Forecast The VLA have issued a Fluke warning this Autumn. Fluke infection problems are likely to be prevalent in both sheep and cattle, so please take faecal samples (can be from the floor if fresh) from both store cattle and cows this autumn and let us assess your risk of fluke. The cost is presently £11.55 + VAT. There is some known resistance to some of the flukicides so please discuss with us the most appropriate treatment for you.

As most of you are aware we are strongly behind the campaign to encourage people to buy locally and reduce food miles, hence we recommend that everyone buy locally either via the Fakenham Farmers Market on the 4th Saturday of the month or directly from the producers listed below:

Duncan Jeary	Beef	07880 508104
Trevor Stebbings	Beef	01553 630603
Mrs Temple	Cheese	01328 820224
Pointen Bros.	Dairy Produce	01263 860338
John Garner	Game, lamb, turkeys	01328 700277
Houghton Hall	Lamb, Mutton, Beef, Pork and Eggs	07793 208655
Sandringham Beef and Lamb	West Newton Shop	01485 542219
Courtyard Farms Ltd.	Beef, Lamb and Pork	07789 366080
Mr Day, Hindolveston	Beef, Lamb and Vegetables	Farmers Market.
Simon Dann	Norfolk Farmhouse Ice-cream	On Farm/Local Shops.
Gavin Lane	Salt Marsh Beef	sales@saltmarshbeef.co.uk
Van Beuningen	Ash Farm Organics	On Farm and Markets

SMALL HOLDERS

Dexters are becoming an increasingly popular breed of cattle, especially for the smallholder, but there can be problems with breeding as one client has discovered. Dexters come as two varieties—short and long legs. The short leg variety actually carry a 'Bulldog' gene—they are heterozygous. If two short leg Dexters breed, they can produce what is known as a bulldog calf. A bulldog calf is a severely deformed calf which is non-viable and normally aborted before reaching term. In such a breeding, the offspring can be either long leg (25%), short leg but normal (50%), or bulldog (25%). Therefore, although some breeders will take the risk, it is advisable to avoid such matings if at all possible. Please phone if you're concerned.

We have been approached about running some practical courses on **smallholder husbandry**—if you might be interested please give us a shout.

Drug News

As you know, we pass all our drug company discounts on to you. Therefore, wanting to provide quality products at the lowest cost we have made the switch from the drug company we previously used to the main manufacturers. The following products have changed:

From:	To:
Duphapan & Strep	Pen & Strep
Duphapan Fort	Ultrapen LA
Duphamox LA	Betamox LA
Nisamox/Synulox	Noroclav
Duphatrim IS	Norodine 24
Terramycin Aerosol	Engemycin Aerosol

The active ingredient is **exactly** the same, its just the packaging that is different.

Reminder Remember to make sure your SOA's are up to date, as DEFRA only consider premises to be under the same management if they are listed on your SOA. DEFRA pays for SOA changes so please keep them up to date.

Local Produce