

NEWSLETTER

March 2008 No 21.



Fertility Focus

Calving has started on many of the beef units across the practice and so far problems have been minimal. Where problems have arisen, these have been in most cases down to heifers having been caught by the stock bull &/or their brothers! This problem was exasperated last year due to the movement restrictions due to foot and mouth.

Teenage pregnancies can be a significant welfare issue and often a great cost—whether this be the cost of a caesarean, a dead calf or a damaged heifer who never breeds again. Please remember that prevention is always better than cure so please:

- Check all steers are actually steers & that the rubber ring has not disappeared—remember budizzos can rectify problems to 4 months of age
- Keep your calving pattern tight; if the bull is only in for 9 weeks he is very unlikely to cover heifer calves
- Arrange for us to treat, with prostaglandins, all heifers over 5 months old that have run with the bull or a rig.
- Remember this needs to be done within 100 days of heifers having been served for it to have good success rates

Bull checks should be carried out 6 weeks before the bulls go back in. If your bulls go in in May that is mid March! We tested 62 bulls in 2007 and 27.5% were not fit for service—an infertile bull can have catastrophic effects on your future cash flow from calf sales. With the beef price rising on average 3p per kg per week at present, you need to maximise returns by getting as many cows in calf as early in the season as possible to maximise grass usage and avoid expensive inputs.

Lambing came too early for some due to ram lambs stuck in during FMDV restrictions and is very late for others who, due to FMDV and then BTV restrictions, were unable to get rams in.

With concentrate prices high and last year a poor year for silage many shepherds are running out of feed and pregnancy toxæmia has been a common complaint. Where scanning for triplets is not carried out, vigilance is essential with rapid treatment of suspect cases. Where triplet numbers are known, selective feeding is essential to minimise problems and costs. As ever prevention is cheaper than cure.

Runners Corner

We are entered for the Round Norfolk Relay again this year, with the majority of last years team keen to run the length of the county border on 27/28th September 2008.



Presently the team or runners comprises of; Gary Zoller (Serg), David Coleman (The metronome, Railway Farm, Sporle), Andy Marsh (Forest, Abbey Farm, Binham), Julian Howard (Howards butchers), Stephen Thrower (Diller), Freddie French (Pfizer), Ross & James Haddow (Stody Estate), Carwyn James (Winnie; Houghton Organic Farm), Sam & John Phelps (Grove Farm, Langham), Will (NFV), Molly (NFV), Duncan Jeary (Hawthorn Farm, Britton), Roger Sayle (Compton Hall pigs), Gavin Lane (Angel, North Lynn Farm), Johnny Laybourne.....

However we are always looking for more farmers to join in the team, either as a runner or in a supportive role.

The majority of the team was running under the watchful eye of Jim on Sunday at Gavin's for a 5 mile handicap race. The next outing should be at Shouldham on the 16th March to run 6.5k cross country—feel free to join in.

Freddie, Gary, Ross and James are tackling the London Marathon in a few weeks time, although I am told Ross contacted the organiser and asked them if they could possibly postpone it a month as he was tired!!! Nice try. The Haddows have a website for sponsorship for BREAK—call for further info.

Gavin, Carwyn, Julian, David and Andy are all off to Edinburgh at the end of May to run in the Hairy Haggis Relay and the Edinburgh marathon respectively, under the watchful eyes of Catherine and Wendy!!

The whole team should again be out in the first week of May for the GEAR 10K in King's Lynn. The more the merrier so please join in—you can enter on-line and enter the team name as 'NFV'.

John will be contacting everyone over the next couple of weeks. If you are not on his contact list then drop him a note to the practice or give him a call.

Jim (Yoda or Silver backed gorilla), as ever, is available for training support and physiotherapy. He is also happy to take on clients for physiotherapy who think the whole idea of running 193 miles around the outskirts of Norfolk is only for the clinically insane. If you are in need of repair please call him

FOR SALE:

Aberdeen Angus Bull -

call Trevor Stebbings 01553 630603

2 Cockerels—Sussex Bred, possibly with mixed colours (Buff/Light). 16-17 weeks old. For sale for breeding, not eating. Contact Tamara Koryniaka on: 01553 773454.

Range Rover Classic Vogue, K Reg (200Tdi), £2500 +VAT. Also Glendale Cattle Crush, Portaquip calf creep feeder, Root Chopper, BOM Auger feeder bucket, Ford 6410 tractor. Contact James Murrell on: 07770692891

WANTED:

20 Heifers—Contact Gavin Lane: 07809 525634.

Hoggets—who need a place to graze FOC in return for use by the Sheep Show Shearing Team.

Contact Richard Savory: info@thesheepshow.co.uk

Angus Bull, not youngster, for use on South Devon Heifers. Contact Norfolk Farm Vets 01485 609031

Goat Meeting Sunday 24 February 2008

Don't get excited, Will's talk for the Fenland Goatkeepers and Smallholders Club has been and gone. The talk on General Sheep and Goat Health Through the Year concentrated on the major diseases to prevent, and on kidding and lambing time. The theory part was followed by a session with Bertha—a lamb birth simulator. Lots of people tried their hand and all were successful at correcting the abnormal presentations—even complicated twins!

We are very grateful to Tiff and Judith Hall who asked us to give this talk, and were very impressed with the great turnout. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the afternoon. The tea and cakes that were provided were excellent, as ever. We must thank Easton College as well as they loaned us their birth simulator. We are in the process of making our own so more people can practice before they start lambing/kidding their own animals. Watch this space!

Bluetongue Meeting

A series of meetings on bluetongue are being held for farmers and other interested parties. They are being sponsored by the farming industry and we will be hosting the first meeting on **Wednesday 19th March** at **Frontiers Agriculture, Breckland Estate, Swaffham**. Start time is **11.00am** and light refreshments will be available, please see the enclosed leaflet for details of the other meetings.

For more information contact Rachel on 01485 609031 or norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com

Bluetongue Restrictions

The pre-movement bluetongue tests are still available at present, but from the **15th March midnight** you will no longer be able to test and move animals as the vector free period will end. In the meantime the 2 tests are still available (The PCR costs £15 + handling and the ELISA £2.95 + handling) see previous newsletter for details.

Vaccination is on the horizon, Intervet have said that the first batch will be available in **May** so if you have not ordered your doses of vaccine yet please **fill in the enclosed form** (sheep require 1 dose and cattle require 2 doses). Animals that have been vaccinated will be able to move out of the Protection Zone into either the Surveillance Zone or the Free Zone after a period of time or after a negative PCR test.

For further information please see the Defra website on www.defra.gov.uk or ring the practice.

New Arrival. Many Congratulations to Charlie and Emma Collison on the arrival of their bouncing baby boy—Jack Charles Collison.



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
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
Perfick Pork	Pork & Lamb	01328 829317
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	01362 683228
		www.ashfarmorganics.co.uk
Mrs. Willcox	Mohair Socks, Preserves, Eggs	Erpingham House Farm

If your name is missing just call the office and we will add your details.

Local Produce

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

e-mail: norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com Website: www.norfolkfarmvets.co.uk

Address: 30 Gayton Road, Grimston, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1BG.