

NEWSLETTER

May 2008 No 23.



NORFOLK FARM VETS

BLUETONGUE UPDATE THE VACCINE ARRIVES

As we are sure you are all aware, the **Bovilis BTV8 vaccine has now arrived**. This is great news as it is actually nearly a whole month ahead of schedule. In addition, both the 50ml (50 dose) and the 20ml (20 dose) vials have arrived together. This helps the speed with which we can get everybody vaccinated, and reduces the potential for wasted doses.

The Sterimatic vaccinator guns and refill packs have also arrived in the nick of time—meaning there is now no need to delay getting the vaccinations done. Another advantage of the vaccinator guns is that they are adjustable from 1ml to 5mls and so can be used in the future for further vaccines etc. This is very important as Bluetongue virus can theoretically be spread animal to animal by infected needles no matter what is being injected. However, please note that when the guns are supplied they are set on about a 4ml dose. Please remember that the Bluetongue vaccine is only a 1ml dose so **adjust the guns to 1ml before starting to dose with the BTV8 vaccine**.

If you have already ordered your vaccine please get in touch to arrange collection, delivery (for which we are making a small charge to cover costs), or for a vet to come and administer the vaccine. We have made a great start with getting the vaccine out to you and thank you to everyone who has been so keen as to collect or receive, and hopefully administer the vaccine already. **If you are yet to place your order** please do so as soon as possible so we know how many more doses are required.

The plan for people with small numbers of stock, or numbers where there would be a lot of wastage from a bottle, is to split the practice into different geographical areas. We will then organise with our clients in each area a convenient time to get all of the stock vaccinated. This will reduce wastage as we will be able to use all of the doses from each vial within the 8 hours it lasts after opening. If you would like to begin to plan with your neighbours or others close by as to when would suit and numbers of doses that will be required this will speed up the process.

Please note, we are currently vaccinating within the Protection Zone, and will be moving on to the surveillance zone when DEFRA decides.

BLUETONGUE UPDATE contd.

For those of you who might still be undecided as to whether to vaccinate or not, please consider the following points as we really do need and hope that everyone in our practice and beyond will decide to vaccinate, both for the sake of their stock, and that of their neighbours. The experts on the disease have stated that the only way to avoid the severity of problems seen in Europe last year is to vaccinate, and we need at least 80% of susceptible stock to be included. This figure includes wildlife so every domestic animal that can be dosed should be.

The disease is important for the following reasons:

- It causes poor fertility with resorptions, abortions and infertility in bulls & rams
- Swollen heads lead to poor feeding & reduced FCR in all species
- Infected joints and swollen feet lead to lameness, welfare issues and poor FCRs
- Milk drop is a huge cause of financial loss
- **Death!!!** (In the region of 41% of sheep infected in Europe last year died!! The percentage was lower in cattle but still significant)

As you can see, the welfare implications and the financial implications are huge, but can hopefully be minimised by effective vaccination of as many stock as is possible. This is a real chance for the industry to take a problem by the horns and do everything in it's power to succeed.

Obviously, the practicalities of rounding up stock, especially now many are turned out to the marshes etc. are not easy. However, we are confident that the difficulties are not insurmountable. We have been really pleased to see that many of you are forming groups to help each other out to get everything vaccinated. If you are wondering how to get things done, please get in touch and we can help get more of these teams together. We have also been contacted by JM Midgley Farm Services who has a mobile cattle crush and handling facilities. His website is: www.flyingfarmer.co.uk.

Please note that there is a data sheet for the vaccine included in each box. This has useful information relating to dose, when and how to use the vaccine as well as contraindications and warnings. This information is also available on the Intervet website.

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.

BLUETONGUE UPDATE contd.

CERTIFICATION.....

If you are **not** planning to move live animals out of the PZ then you are allowed by DEFRA to vaccinate animals yourselves, however if planning to move live animals out of the zone, presently you are required to have the vaccine administration certified by a vet or have the animal tested by PCR before moving it.

There are a plethora of requirements from DEFRA on moving animals which may well alter daily so check the DEFRA website www.defra.gov.uk and watch this space.

Runners Corner

In addition to chasing stock to vaccinate them for BTV most of the Norfolk Farm Vet Knackers have been out competing as part of their training for this years Round Norfolk Relay;

Chase the Train was a 8.9mile run alongside the railway line from Aylsham to Wroxham—I'm sure it was all uphill!!
Molly 1.00.45, Andy Marsh 1.01.43, John Phelps 1.09.24 and Ross Haddow 1.27.09

Last years 10k GEAR race in Lynn was the first competitive outing for some of our Norfolk Farm Vets Knackers and this year most were out to beat last years time. The weather although beautiful for sunbathing was not so ideal for running....

Molly 41.05, Andy Marsh 41.47, David Colman 45.07, Julian Howard 46.21, Gavin Lane 46.47, Carwyn James 48.07, Paul Bushell 48.33, Stephen Thrower 51.37, Ross Haddow 58.24.

As ever new members to the NFVK are welcome with open arms, whether you fancy a gentle jog, no competition required, a bike ride or just to feel part of what is becoming a rapidly growing farming social network. Give us a call. Next run 5K at Gavins North Lynn Farm Thursday 15th May 7.30pm. See you there.

WANTED:

12 Sim X Dairy (Holstein/Friesian) bulling heifers. Must be 'disease free'

Contact James Ashworth on: 07715 464832

6-10 Hereford type heifers at 22-24 months

Contact the Newells on: 01366 500357

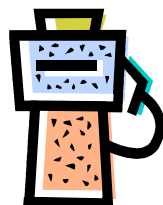
Goats...

The annual spring goat show is being held at The Norfolk Showground this weekend (10th, 11th May) with arrival on Saturday afternoon and judging on the Sunday.

Zaney's Brunch—Mr. and Mrs. Cole are holding a Brunch at Catwood Cottage, Aylsham on Saturday 12th July at 11am. Tickets are £3 each and include brunch, a glass of wine, cup of tea or coffee. There will be a tombola, cake stall, raffle and fish for a bottle. All proceeds are going to the Norwich and District Goat Club. Phone Lucy for tickets on 01263733742. Why not come along to either of these events and see what goat keeping is all about!

Equine Vaccinations - there

appears to be some confusion over us administering equine vaccinations. We have done and will continue to offer a vaccination service to our farm clients who have horses at a cost of £16.31 + VAT per flu tet vaccine + the usual visit fee (if applicable).



Fuel Costs & Visit Costs—I am sure that you will understand that because of the dramatic rise in the price of diesel we are having to increase our visit fees by 10%. This will increase the cost of a visit to £33.83 from £30.75.

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

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