

## *Bluetongue Vaccination*

### **Cambridge Bluetongue Vaccination Survey**

Now bluetongue vaccination is in full force Cambridge University is keen to do a study on vaccination in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. The study has two main aims:

- 1) To obtain an overview of vaccine use across the 3 counties
- 2) To compare the exposure levels and response of unvaccinated and vaccinated animals to the bluetongue virus

In order to collect this data (which will be kept confidential) a bluetongue vaccination survey will be sent out this month along with further information on the study. We know it seems like more paperwork, but your participation would be much appreciated! We are all keen to know how effective vaccination has been in controlling the spread of bluetongue.

### **Calves & kids (of the goat variety)**

The majority of cattle, sheep and goats have already been vaccinated with the full course of bluetongue, however, there are going to be a number of people with a few calves or kids here and there that weren't old enough at the time to receive vaccination or have only recently been born. We realise that this could become expensive for people needing 1 bottle for a few individuals so we are encouraging everyone to contact us at the practice to let us know how many doses they need and when they are likely to be able to do it. That way we can coordinate the use of bluetongue vaccination to ensure there is minimal wastage and the cost is shared between as many people as possible.

### **Don't let your guard down..**

Remember it wasn't until September last year that we started really encountering problems with Bluetongue so please still continue to protect all animals. It is the young and the old, as with most diseases, that are likely to be worst affected so don't forget the late born calves and kids.

### **Boosters**

Next year's boosters can be given at anytime prior to turnout so plan in advance and arrange to inject animals alongside other routine jobs prior to turnout to make your lives easier! We will by then have vaccine available from 3 different manufacturers and Merial at least is looking at vaccines that cover more than 1 strain of BTV.

## **Runners Corner**

The Round Norfolk Relay is almost here again, 20-21st September, and our intrepid team are out to improve on last years time by finishing an hour (or more) earlier.



Don't forget all help and support in the form of well timed rallying cries for flagging legs, rattling of tins at Cromer and Sheringham to raise some funds for RABI, and cyclists to accompany runners are always welcome.

Several of the group are out on 10th of this month to run in the Great Yarmouth Half Marathon to get in a bit of training.

The team is confirmed as;

Gary Zoller, TTA, Johnny Laybourne, WNAC, Sam Phelps, Grove Farm Langham, David Colman, Railway Farm Sporle, John Phelps, Grove Farm Langham, Will, NFV, John Greenhalgh, KLWNBC, Paul Bushell, Abbey Farm Binham, Ben Collison, NFV, Carwyn James, Houghton Organic Farm, Gavin Lane, Salt Marsh Beef North Lynn, Andy Marsh, Abbey Farm Binham, Jimmy Robinson, WNAC, Steven Thrower, Gayton, Ruby Wright, Fellside Farm, Cromer, Bex Daines, WNAC, Julian Howard, Howards Butchers, Gayton & Molly, NFV.

## *Congratulations* to Jonathon Hall, Old Grange

*Farm who shot his way into the English Clay Pigeon Shooting team on 5th/6th July and will be representing the country in a match later this summer.*



## **What's New?**

- CIDRs, a progestagen implant used in cattle, as some people are aware, had been unavailable for a little while however, they are now available and being manufactured by Pfizer but at an increased cost and a lower concentration of active product—see price list. An equivalent called the PRID, is available which is significantly cheaper but a slightly different design, perhaps more prone to being pulled out by inquisitive heifers. We will be offering clients the choice of either—so just let us know if you have a preference.
- Katherine Jennings, a regular student with us, is undertaking a project at the Royal Veterinary College on the use of Honey as a treatment for mastitis in dairy cows. If you are interested in taking part call Molly at the practice.

GRAZING AVAILABLE: Hempton Marsh, access off the bypass at Fakenham. Available from March to October. For further info call 01485 525406.

### ***Poultry Disease Focus***

#### ***Mycoplasmosis***

Backyard flocks are becoming more common and we often get presented with sick hens. There are many conditions that they can suffer from but one of the most frequent clinical signs we see is respiratory disease. There are a number of different causes some of which include: mycoplasma, infectious bronchitis, aspergillosis and gapeworm. This month the disease focus is on *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. Infected birds may show the following clinical signs: sneezing, nasal and ocular discharge, rattley breathing, swollen sinuses. Diagnosis is often presumptive, based on clinical signs but can be confirmed. Treatment is with antibiotics in the water or with injection in severe cases. Antibiotics alleviate clinical signs but don't eliminate infection. Infection is spread when birds carrying the disease are stressed. To protect new birds entering a flock with a known problem vaccination can be done at 6 weeks of age.

#### **Game Birds**

Hopefully this years summer will be drier than last year and you will have minimal losses! However, if a problem becomes apparent and you find you are losing birds, then drop off 3 to 6 freshly dead carcasses (less than 6 hours dead) for post-mortem as this is by far the most effective way of diagnosing the problem. Many of you will be requiring prescriptions for medicated feed, we are happy to provide this service, however, if we haven't seen you in the last 12 months then we will have to arrange a site visit to meet the legal requirement for prescriptions.

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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	Organic Beef, Lamb and Pork	01485 525251 or courtyardfarm.organic@virgin.net
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



### **Beef Workshop**



Thanks to Will Hancock, Church Farm, Bawsey for hosting the Beef Workshop ran by EBLEX Better Returns Programme.

The afternoon started off with a quiz based on Herd Health Planning hosted by Molly. The purpose was to stimulate discussion over the answers and wake everyone up after lunch! The questions covered topics from disease to present day values for cattle. Do you know what it costs you to raise a beast and what it's value was last week? This information is vital to see whether you are maximising your returns! 3 people won the top prize, each getting 8 out of 10 correct answers, to win a bottle of bubbly and 30 minutes of free herd health planning! They were John from Chalk Hill Farm, Holkham, Chris from Silbury Developments, Weasenhams and Will Hancock! No insider information..he claims he had actually read his Herd Health Plan!

This was followed by an educational afternoon with Michael Richardson from EBLEX giving an informative presentation on cattle handling followed by a practical demonstration by John Messenger on selecting cattle. The practical demonstration was held in Church Farm's new mobile handling system which allows easy and safe access to cattle for all imaginable jobs. It was an informative and enjoyable afternoon, even if the weather was less than desirable! The handling system can be hired from the farm just call Will direct on 07979641597 or for further info.

**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.