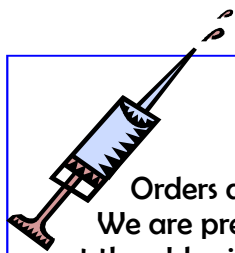


# NEWSLETTER

## February 2009 No 32.



NORFOLK FARM VETS



### Bluetongue vaccine

Orders are coming in thick and fast for BTV. We are presently still purchasing DEFRA stocks at the old price but this will not be available from the end of February—so for a guaranteed price call and reserve asap.

We did not have a significant problem with BTV this year, however, is it really not worth the risk of not vaccinating before you turnout when the cost is as little as 55p per dose! The cost of getting stock back in if we were to be badly affected in 2009 is significantly more than this and by that time it may be too late to protect animals.

### PARASITE FORECAST for SHEEP

Nematodirus—This year's cold snap will probably mean the late development of larvae on pasture leading to largest numbers on pasture when lambs have been turned out (>10 degrees C)—so prepare and beware. *Nematodirus* spp. are still thought to be susceptible to white drenches (Benzimidazoles) so consider using a white drench to protect the lambs at this time to prevent resistance building up to other drenches. Leave your avermectin drenches to later in the season. Remember to 'flow' your pastures, i.e. put lambs on the lowest risk pastures;

*Low risk pastures* have not been grazed by sheep in the previous year or are not grazed in the current year until late June

*Medium risk pastures* are those that have been grazed by non-lactating sheep only early in the spring

Coccidiosis is always a risk in early lambs that are intensively reared—prevention is always better than cure so consider using Vecoxan as a prevention approx 1 month into the lambing period for lambs 3 weeks old.

Fluke Remember animals can harbour fluke over the winter so if you were on fluke infested pastures last autumn and didn't dose after housing or out-wintered stock please take a faeces sample to see if animals are harbouring infection which could contaminate this year's pastures.

### Bull Fertility.

It's nearly that time of year again for the spring calving herds to start thinking about bulls for this breeding season. Whether you already have your stock bulls for this year or you are planning on buying or selling breeding bulls, a fertility check makes sense to give piece of mind that the bull is 'firing on all cylinders'.

Don't forget that the national average is for 25% of bulls to be either infertile or subfertile. In the last 2 years we have tested 150 bulls, of which about 27% have shown below optimal fertility. With the beef prices holding up well while the rest of the economy crumbles around them, it's vital to get as many cows as possible in calf.

Don't forget that every beef herd should be able to get 95% in calf in a 9 week service period with 60% calving in the first 3 week.

The ideal time to test is around 6 weeks before the start of the breeding season. This is because it takes this long from the start of semen production to ejaculation and allows time for a re-test if the examination shows a problem that may be transient.

With testing costing from £68.25 to £105 +VAT per bull depending on the number tested, there's no reason not to get your bulls booked in!

### RUNNERS CORNER

—yes its back!

We are again hoping to enter a team in this year's Round Norfolk Relay. The entry is about to go in and we are looking for 17 willing and able?? Farming folk to complete the 17 stages.

If you would like to get fit, meet up with other like minded people and generally feel part of the team then put your name down for a place.

The race is September 2009.

Gavin Lane, North Lynn Farm is planning to arrange Sunday runs and as ever there are training sessions for those that want them at 7pm Monday and Thursday nights at Lynn Sport King's Lynn with West Norfolk Athletic Club—who really are a friendly and not at all scary bunch!

For more information either call the practice or call Gavin direct on 07809525634.

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

### For Sale:

**Tubar Cattle crush**—excellent working order complete with weigh scales. **EB Feed Hopper**—13 tonne, fibreglass with low level discharge. Perfect condition. EB feeder system also available.

Contact James Ashworth on: 07715 464832.

**Horse Lorry**—H reg in VGC. 2 horse/3 pony.

Contact Lynn on 01485 600566.

### People:

**Charlie Collison** is available for professional stockmanship, sheep & cattle, and preparation of show cattle. 07810106095.

### Abortions.

We are seeing a number of abortions in cattle as the majority of beef herds are due to start calving soon. Remember that every abortion should be reported to us. We can then inform DEFRA who will normally authorise an abortion enquiry. This means that they cover the cost of the visit and we can take extra samples to determine the cause of the abortion and institute any control measures that may be necessary.

### Sudden Deaths.

While we're on the subject of reporting, don't forget to report any sudden deaths. We let DEFRA know who will normally authorise an Anthrax enquiry. Although the disease is rare, it's always worth a check, and again the cost is covered by DEFRA.

**E-mail newsletters.** If it suits you to receive newsletters by e-mail then just let the office know.

### Two dates for your diary...

Will is giving a talk to the **Fenland Goatkeepers and Smallholders Club** on Sunday 22nd February at 2:30pm. The talk is about keeping pigs and poultry and some common problems.

Molly is giving a talk to the **Norwich and District Goat Club** on Saturday 14th March at Hockering village hall. The subject is goat nutrition at every stage of a goats life from kid through to pregnancy and lactation.

### Sorry you're leaving.....

Helen is leaving us to get bitten and scratched instead of crushed and kicked!! She has decided to broaden her horizons and take up a position as a small animal vet locally and we wish her all the best.

We are pleased to let you know that Lorraine will be with us on a more full-time basis from the beginning of March and we are hoping to take on another full-time dedicated large animal vet in the Summer.

End of the Fallen Stock Scheme. As of the 12th January, fallen stock will no longer be collected for free. The cost of collection will then be between £160 and £180.

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, Chicken & Beef	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
Linda Cletheroe	Seasonal Fresh Vegetables	01263 587466 / 07780930903 Lindafreshveg.vpweb.co.uk Farmers Market

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

Local Produce

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