

NEWSLETTER

March 2009 No 33.



NORFOLK FARM VETS

Decision making on drugs—how do we chose what we use when?

We have to answer the following questions:

What is likely to work? All drugs are not the same, different antibiotics have different efficacies against different bacteria, different painkillers work better against different sources of pain and work for differing lengths of time etc. etc.

What is licensed in the species to be treated? As vets we have to adhere to what is called 'the cascade'. This means that legally we have to prescribe a drug that is licensed for the species in which it is to be used, regardless of price, if we feel it will be effective. So for example we must use a licensed penicillin for sheep, of which there are few, even though penicillin licensed for cattle is often cheaper. If we use a drug where there is no licensed drug available for the species concerned, or if we decide to use a dose rate for a drug that differs from the data sheet then we doing what is called using the drug 'off licence'. If no drug is licensed for the species then we must legally use a drug that is licensed for a closely related species, e.g. cattle drugs for other ruminants.

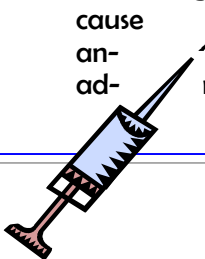
What does 'off licence' mean? On a practical level it means that the withdrawal periods that have to be adhered to revert to 7 days for milk, 7 days for eggs and 28 days for meat for conventional stock or double these times for organic farms.

Why would we choose to use a drug off licence? It could be because there is nothing licensed that would be effective in the species, for example, there are very few drugs licensed for goats. Or it may be because the route of administration is impractical e.g. it is licensed intravenously but we want to use it into the muscle so farmers can administer it easily. Or sometimes it is because experience and research shows us that a longer course of treatment is needed than detailed on the data sheet.

Why are there so few drugs licensed for some species? There is a huge cost to the drug manufacturers in getting a drug licensed and in some species the volume of sales in reality just doesn't make it worth their while.

Other things to think about?

Some drugs are very effective in one species but cause adverse reactions or are ineffective in another. Some drugs can only be administered legally by a vet.



Vaccine Orders for BVD, Lepto & Blackleg

We are placing a large order for vaccines against Leptospirosis, BVD and Blackleg with Intervet Schering Plough this month. This has allowed us to get a significant discount for bulk buying which will be *available for this month only*.

If you wish to order any of these vaccines, at the prices shown below, then please place an order with the office before 15th March 2009 for delivery by the end of the month. After this time, of course, the vaccines will still be available but at our usual prices. Vaccines can be ordered and stored for use on farm later in the year but please remember that once ordered these vaccines cannot be returned to the practice as we cannot return them to the drugs wholesaler.

(Prices per dose in £)

Vaccine	Pack size	Spec price	Norm price
Bovilis BVD	50 dose	1.62	2.01
Leptavoid H	25 dose	2.57	3.18
Blackleg	25 dose	0.25	0.28

The **Norwich and District Goat Club** have kindly invited us to talk on **Goat Nutrition** on **Saturday 14th March** at Hockering village hall—see you there.

RUNNERS CORNER

March was christened with a muddy foray around the Stody Estate, supporting **BREAK**, on a 5 mile run. John Phelps, Grove Farm, led the Round Norfolk Relay runners home with a storming finish still united with his shoes which was more than some of the others!

Gavin is organising Sunday runs open to all; for those running in the Round Norfolk Relay or just out to get a little fitter. These will move venue but Holt Country Park and Bawsey are often favoured venues.

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.

As ever there are also 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.

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.

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.

Simmental Bull. 3 years old, full pedigree. BVD and IBR Free. Offspring can be seen.

Contact William Wales on: 07768 510220.

Wanted:

2 Anglo Nubian Female Goats.

Ideally 9-12 months old.

Contact Janet Githiri on: 01945 440412.

Hire Bull: Preferably Limousin. Wanted asap.

Contact Al Wagg on: 07775607038.

People:

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

Bluetongue Vaccine

We've been really pleased with the uptake this year. Just a warning that we are starting to see some problems with the supply of vaccine. It is still coming through, but not as quickly as it has been. Therefore, please give plenty of notice as to number of doses and when you would like them by to avoid any potential problems. Give Ben a ring at the office to get your order in.

Fenland Goatkeepers and Smallholders Club

Will gave a talk on 'The Health and Welfare of Pigs and Poultry for the Smallholder' to an audience of 57 at West Walton Village Hall last month. It was really great to see so many people turning out to support the club—an increasingly rare occurrence these days. We're delighted that the club has asked us to make the February talk an annual event, so any ideas for topics for the next few talks—let us or Tiff and Judith know.

Goat Kid Disbudding

It's that time of year again and the kids are coming thick and fast. Just a reminder about disbudding to answer a couple of common questions:

- It has to be done under general anaesthesia, and is therefore a veterinary procedure.
- In young kids it is relatively quick (about 10 minutes) and therefore relatively inexpensive.
- The best time to do it is under seven days of age. We can do older kids but the procedure is more involved and therefore carries increased risk and expense. In addition, the risk of some horn regrowth is increased. Book in as soon as possible after the kids are born to make sure we can find a suitable appointment.

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	Organic Beef, Lamb and Pork	01485 525251 or courtyardfarm.organic@virgin.net
Perfick Pork	Pork, Lamb, Chicken & Beef	01328 829317
Mr Day,	Lamb and Vegetables	Hindolveston
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 Vegetable	01263 587466 / 07780930903 Lindafreshveg.vpweb.co.uk Farmers Market

Local Produce

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

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

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