

NEWSLETTER

June 2009 No 36.



NORFOLK FARM VETS

Three Years!!!

We can't believe it either, but Norfolk Farm Vets has now been open for three whole years. The time has flown by for us, and we would just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their support and loyalty over this time. Things are always changing in this profession, but it is our clients that make the practice what it is, and for this we will always be grateful.

Just as an update, at the last count we had just under 400 active clients, ranging from single animals up to around 3000 head of cattle. One of our main aims has been to treat everyone the same, and provide the same high level of service to every client. What you think of us and how we work, and our relationship with you is very important to us. To this end, if you have any comments about the way we do things, or if there are any areas where you feel we could improve, please let us know.

Below are just a very small sample of some of the interesting cases we have seen over the last few years.

Dorsal Patellar Fixation in cattle.

We were called to look at two beef cows who were walking abnormally. They both, to different extents, walked with one back leg completely straight, throwing the affected leg out to the side and dragging the toe. This would happen for a number of steps, then the leg would suddenly bend, often with an associated click. A diagnosis was made, with consultation with the Royal Vet College, of dorsal patellar fixation. This is a rare condition where the patellar (knee cap) gets stuck at the top of its normal range of movement as the ligaments get 'hooked' over a bony process on the femur. This can be permanent or, as in this case, transient. The treatment involves cutting the medial (inside) patellar ligament, therefore preventing the locking and curing the condition. Gladly, the surgery was a success in both cases. We have some great before and after footage of the two cases if anyone is interested to see them.

Fluke

This is an ever increasing problem throughout East Anglia, and we see an increase in both the number and severity of cases. In addition, we are starting to see some resistance developing to the major flukicides. So, please remember to submit faeces samples later in the season to check for the presence of any problem. In addition, any treatments should be followed by a second faeces sample, taken at about three weeks after treatment, to assess the efficiency of the drug used and therefore prevent ongoing problems and therefore financial losses.

Neospora

Neospora now accounts for over 10% of bovine abortions nationally, according to NADIS. We have seen a definite increase in cases, with an outbreak of cases on one dairy in particular. Once a cow is infected, it increases her chance of aborting in every pregnancy, but particularly in her first pregnancy. In addition she will pass the infection on to any calves that do make it to term. Therefore it is very important to know which cows are affected, so please remember to report any abortions to us so we can investigate.

Copper deficiency.

We have recently been investigating cases of suspected swayback in goats and sheep. Post mortem examinations, along with blood samples from the dams have revealed low copper in both liver and blood samples. While the occurrence of such problems associated with copper deficiency is not new news, what is interesting is the geographical side of the problem, and the animals it is happening in. We have been seeing it in both sheep and goats, with an emphasis on Boer Goats. There has for some time been a suggestion that meat goats require more copper than sheep or milking goats. The other interesting thing is that all the cases have been centred on the fens. In addition, another sheep farmer in the area has been able to feed his show ewes on beef nuts—something which would normally kill them if other sources of copper were at normal levels.

As a result of all this, a number of people are planning copper supplementation strategies for the future, but please get in touch before doing anything along these lines as excess copper is just as dangerous. Also, we are hoping to secure funding to do some research into what normal levels should be in goats, and therefore what level copper should be at in the diet.

For Sale:

Young Beef Shorthorn Bulls—Red Rhone and White.

High Health Status, Polled, Ready for use.

NJ & AM Barrett. Call Nick on: 07789 764117.

Land Rover—110 HiCap pick-up. 51 Plate. TD5. Only 47,000. MOT until October.

Call Nigel Carey on: 07850 823850.

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.

People/Equipment:

Mobile Sheep Handling—Pratley mobile sheep handling system. For hire with operator.

Call Mr. Fletcher on: 07977040358.

Molecatcher—for hire. Tracey Palmer: 01485 600717.

Wanted:

2 Anglo Nubian Female Goats.

Ideally 9-12 months old.

Contact Janet Githiri on: 01945 440412.

Bluetongue vaccine.

As you will be aware DEFRA's desire to get rid of their short dated Bluetongue vaccine stocks has started a vaccine price war between the different manufacturers of the vaccine and the price has dropped by approx 50%. This, I am assuming, will be the case until these short dated stocks are sold and DEFRA come out of the equation...so if you haven't vaccinated yet or you have calves left to do now is the time to do it!

The Royal Norfolk Show—1st & 2nd July

Just a reminder that because of Molly's inability to run in high heels and the risk of Will losing his smart hat we will be running an emergency service only on these 2 days.

The annual caption competition is still open until 19th June so see what you can do with this....

We have already had some excellent answers but have a go. Answers can be sent in by snail mail, email or fax . Best answers win a pair of tickets.



The Suffolk Show , an ever a popular event, was well supported by clients this year who returned laden with prizes. Of particular note are the following

Bill & Karen Newell—Res Junior Interbreed - British Blue
Tony Miller , Shadwell—Champion Bull—Aberdeen Angus
Duncan and Tracy Jeary—Res Champion female—A. Angus
AG Wright & Son—Champion Bull, group of 3 and pair—

Hereford

Wissington Charolais—Champion Bull and group of 3—
Charolais

S. Coke & K. Long—Champion male & Kentwell Perpetual
Challenge Cup—Norfolk Horn

We'll look forward to seeing everyone at this year's Norfolk Show.

Have you seen the MEDIDART? We believe that we have loaned out our 2nd Medidart to someone but cannot remember who! If it was you please can you give the practice a call and let us know.

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	Pork, Lamb, Veg, Knitting wool	Hindolveston. 01263 860578
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
Moore's Livestock, Oak Farm	Beef, Pork, Free Range Eggs	Farmers Market 01553 630772/07900 491679

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

Local Produce