

NEWSLETTER



NORFOLK FARM VETS

March 2010 No 45

TB - SHOULD EAST ANGLIA WAIT FOR ERADICATION OR CONCENTRATE ON PREVENTION?



TB was once thought of as a problem for the West Country with 4 yearly TB tests here in East Anglia being solely a source of irritation and a wasted day however, things are changing fast.....where we would have expected not to find reactors or inconclusive reactors at TB test readings up until a year ago we now read tests with dread knowing that on some herds there is the significant risk of reactors.

Being found as a TB positive herd has significant implications for the farm. It is a notifiable disease and hence the farm is placed under restrictions imposed by Animal Health, an arm of DEFRA. If found to have a positive animal called a 'reactor';

- That animal(s) must be segregated, *culled* and you will be paid *fixed rate* compensation for this beast
- You will not be able to move any animals *off* your holding except under licence and to slaughter only. Usually these animals will require a TB test first.
- You will not be able to move any animals *on* your holding, including bulls, replacement heifers etc.
- You will be required to *test all animals in the herd from the age of new born calves again* 60 days following completion of the first test
- And repeat this process again and again until no reactors are found at 60 day intervals
- Then even once clear you will be required to complete a *short interval test* 6 months later.

So if you become a positive herd for TB you may be *locked down* for some significant time unable to move animals off your holding including to summer grazing or move animals on your holding as replacements etc. and you will have the pleasure of our company testing all the animals and putting both them and you under stress at all too frequent intervals!

SO PREVENTION IS THE KEY— we are presently arranging an open meeting for farmers hosted by Animal Health/DEFRA and ourselves where we will go through the process of TB testing and how we can significantly reduce the likelihood of TB getting a foot hold in East Anglia. Here you will be able to talk through your concerns and issues both regarding TB and other issues concerning Animal Health however, in the mean time below are a few pointers to reduce your likelihood of succumbing and reducing the impact if you do. Following this initial meeting with Defra we will arrange a series of free workshops on different types of unit; beef suckler, fat stock producer etc with a series of specialists to talk about how biosecurity can be improved to keep TB out. Included in these will be ways to reduce the chance of wildlife spread of TB—badgers and deer.

Almost all TB found in East Anglia can be traced to bought in stock so if you have to buy in stock from outside the region, regardless of whether it comes from a 1 yearly or 4 yearly testing area, bring it in to isolation facilities and complete a private post movement TB test. These TB tests are relatively cheap and if an individual animal is positive the fact that it is in isolation will prevent spread within your herd and in some cases prevent your main herd from being locked down.

Before a routine 4 yearly test remove all animals that are ready for slaughter whether they be fat stock or culls. This ensures they will not get stuck on farm should you have a reactor.

Assess your farm for and try and prevent likely saliva contamination by wildlife of feeding areas direct contact is required for TB transmission.

For Sale:

Aberdeen Angus Bulls—Five, two year old bulls available now.

Contact Trevor Stebbings on 01553 630603.

Limousin Bulls—Well bred, nice temperament. 13 months and 17 months.

Contact Mr. Denby on 07961357243.

Miniature Pig—Free to a good home (not meat!).

Contact Naomi Schrier on 01553 827550.

Limousin Bull—Unregistered but pedigree.

Contact Scott McInnes on: 07876 047746.

Kerry Hill Shearling Ewes. Also selected rams and ewe lambs. Contact Glenariff Pedigree Livestock, call Nick or Andrew on 01553 672440

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:

Stockman—Self employed stockman (Beef, Dairy and Sheep) Trained in DIY AI & qualified foot trimmer (Dutch Method) available from March onwards, all positions considered, no accommodation needed, Norfolk area only - Lee Oakes 01553 672440

For Hire—**Mobile Cattle Handling** including pen, race and crush with weigh scales. **Cow Catcher** with operator. Call Will Hancock on: 07979641597.

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

Call Mr. Fletcher on: 07977040358.

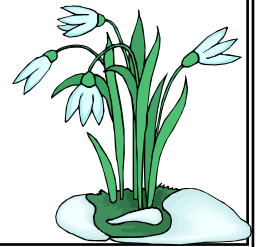
Molecatcher—for hire. Tracey Palmer: 01485 600717.

Trevor Buxton—Full time milker with years of experience: 07909935597.

Pauline Buxton—Sheep dog training: 07979500879.

Please call the office if you would like us to put an add in for next month. Thanks.

Paul Deadman—It is with great sadness that we report the death of Paul Deadman of Burnham Road Farm, Ringstead, to cancer. Paul was a jovial, larger than life figure and will be sorely missed by the farming community. Our best wishes go out to Carol and their 3 children.



All donations to Shouldham Ward, QE Hospital, Kings Lynn.

Events.

In addition to the NADIS EEDA project and training courses that are ongoing across the region, we are also giving some other talks to clubs in the region.

Last Sunday Will gave the now annual talk to the **Fenland Goatkeepers and Smallholders Club**. This year the club has a number of new members and so the subjects covered were the basics of keeping sheep, pigs and poultry from a vets perspective. As ever with this club, the turnout was impressive, and it was great to see so many old as well as new faces. If anyone has any ideas for topics for next year, let me know.

Kat is giving a talk to the **Norfolk Smallholders Training Group** on 25th April all about Sheep Health issues from lameness to parasite control and injection techniques.

For information on all the other training courses please see Rachel's Training Newsletter.

Land or buildings.

Thank you to those of you that have come up with ideas so far for a new base for the practice. However, we are still on the lookout so any ideas please get in touch. Thanks.

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:

Mrs Temple	Cheese	01328 820224
Pointen Bros.	Dairy Produce	01263 860338
John Garner	Game, lamb, turkeys	01328 700277
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 www.lindasfreshveg.co.uk
Moore's Livestock, Oak Farm	Beef, Pork, Free Range Eggs	Farmers Market
Rudi Jennings	Free range goat meat	01553 630772/07900 491679 01945 585467

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

Local Produce