



WINTER UPDATE

FARM FIRST NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2020



FARMING CONNECT CLINICS

There will be a new round of these starting from the 1st of December, so even businesses that have claimed for £250 worth of testing in the last couple of months we'll be able to claim again for a new set of testing. At this time of year you could consider testing for the cause of pneumonia outbreaks in cattle, trace element testing, liver fluke, barren ewe profiles or metabolic profiles for ewes in the run up to lambing, as well as investigating any specific issues that you may have on your farm. To take advantage of this scheme, please speak to one of the vets.

BETAMOX LA

Although we cannot source this product at the moment, there has been an increase in the withdrawal time. If you have any product on your farm, you must adhere to the new withdrawal periods and maximum injection volumes. Please see the table below for the new information. Species Maximum Injection Site Volumes Current Withhold Periods New Withhold Periods Cattle Meat 15 ml 28 days 39 days Sheep Meat 4ml 19 days 29 days Pigs Meat 4ml 19 days 42 days Milk - cattle 15ml 84hours 108 hours (4.5 days) .

Species	Max injection site vol.	Current with hold period	New withheld period
Cattle meat	15ml	28 days	39 days
Sheep	4ml	19 days	29 days
Pigs	4ml	19 days	42 days
Milk - Cattle	15ml	84 hours	108 hrs (4-5 days)

We currently have an alternative product called Trymox LA. The withhold time for this Cattle - Milk 84 hours, Meat 28 days. Sheep -19 days meat .



LIVER FLUKE IN SILAGE

Can cattle or sheep be infected with liver fluke from silage?" has been a frequently asked question at farmer meetings over the last few years. The answer has always been that the risk is likely to be low based on the facts that: silage fields will usually have been lightly grazed earlier in the year; the grass is usually cut before metacercariae numbers peak in autumn (these are the fluke larvae from infected snails) the wettest areas of the field (where metacercariae numbers are likely to be highest) are not suitable for cutting. Researchers at Liverpool University have carried out experiments to determine whether or not *Fasciola hepatica* metacercariae are capable of surviving in anaerobic silage and under under conditions representative of aerobic spoilage. The researchers concluded that:

- There is no risk of *F. hepatica* transmission from anaerobically fermented silage fed from 2 weeks post sealing.
- Metacercariae can survive for a period of time under aerobic conditions and therefore spoiled forages may represent a risk particularly if the dry matter is low.
- Ensuring adequate wilting to increase dry matter and achieving a good seal to create anaerobic conditions remain key in the silage making process. The outcomes of this research are nice and clear and yet another reason not to feed any potentially spoiled silage.

ALLEVINIX WARNING

We are very pleased to have Allevinix injection back for use in cattle, but have noticed that there is a warning on the product if it is going to be used intravenously. The product must be injected slowly and at body temperature. Stop injection at the first signs of intolerance and treat for shock if necessary. It should not be used in the 48 hour before calving, or before the cow has cleansed as this can lead to stillbirths and retained foetal membranes. This warning has been on the label for many years, but after a recent incident we felt we should highlight it.

COVID 19 UPDATE

In the uncertain times we are facing over the winter we would like to reassure our clients that we are continuing to operate a full and comprehensive service for all. We request that all on-farm visits are carried out under the current social distancing guidelines. If you are unable to maintain distance from members of our team, which can be difficult for some procedures, we expect both client and vet to wear a face covering for the duration of the visit but especially if social distancing guidelines cannot be adhered to and the visit/procedure is for a duration longer than 15 minutes. This applies even if the visit is taking place outside (e.g. TB tests) unless you are medically exempt. It is essential that if you, or anyone in your household, is showing symptoms of COVID-19 or has tested positive, that you inform us ideally in advance of your visit (so we can rearrange if possible) or if this is not possible when the vet has arrived on farm before the visit has commenced. Knowing as much information as possible will allow us to make an assessment of the risk and carry out our duties safely for all visit types

STAFF NEWS

We have two new members of staff joining us - Sarah Davies in December as Senior Administrator and will be dealing with H&S, HR, Marketing and other business areas. Eleri Davies in January as a Veterinary Surgeon from Hirwaun who previously worked at Drybridge Vets.



MEDICINE ORDERS & CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

As the Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays fall on a weekend this year the office will be closed for quite a few days in a row. There will be a vet on call at all time, so don't worry if you need us in an emergency, but please think ahead and order well in advance if you are likely to need any medicines that you may need over the Christmas period.

JOKE

There's A Fly In My Champagne -A multinational company held a reception to celebrate Christmas. The waiter gave each guest a glass of Champagne, but on inspection each guest noticed that their glass contained a fly. The Swede asked for new Champagne in the same glass. The Englishman demanded to have new Champagne in a new glass. The Finn picked out the fly out and drank the Champagne. The Russian drank the Champagne, fly and all. The Chinese ate the fly but left the Champagne. The Israeli caught the fly and sold it to the Chinese. The Italian drank two thirds of the Champagne and then demanded to have a new glass. The Norwegian took the fly and went off to fish. The Irishman ground the fly and mixed it in the Champagne, which he then donated to the Englishman .The American sued the restaurant and claimed \$50 million in compensation. The Scotsman grabbed the fly by the throat and shouted: "Now spit out all that you swallowed!"

**We would like to wish all of our clients a
Merry Christmas &
a Happy New Year!**



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