

## MEDICINE REVIEW VISITS



We would like to inform you of our new medicine dispensing policy which we are having to introduce to comply with the regulations of our governing bodies. We are only allowed to dispense medicines to animals which are classed as 'under our care'. This means that we need to have knowledge of the farm, the husbandry system and the group of animals for which the medicines are intended. In the case of some products, we must have seen the individual animal. Regulations also require us to

be satisfied that the medicines that we dispense are being used and stored in an appropriate manner. To enable us to comply with these standards, we will be introducing Medicine Reviews which will take place on each farm every 18 months. We envisage that these will take no longer than 25 minutes, during which time we will familiarise ourselves with your animal husbandry system, check that medicines are being stored and used appropriately and view a proportion of your stock. We will also supply you with our most up-to-date medicine sheets and dose rates for your reference. Medicine Reviews will be rolled out gradually over the next 12 months and initially we will be approaching clients who have purchased drugs, but have had no visit or a TB test in the last 18 months. The cost of these visits will be £48 + VAT including the visit charge. Without one of these visits, we will be unable to continue to dispense medicines to these farms.

If you would like to book a Medicine Review while we are on the farm for other reasons, please let us know when you make your appointment.

For clients on Farm Assurance schemes, this review can be carried out at the annual Health Plan meeting, or for other farms that we visit regularly, we can carry out the review when we visit for other planned reasons e.g. at a small TB test or PD session. The cost of this additional work will be £28 + vat.

Like the farming industry, the veterinary profession is under a lot of pressure to show that we are reducing our use of antibiotics and using them responsibly. Our ability to dispense medicines directly to our clients is under threat, and if we don't demonstrate that we are doing everything we can to prescribe by the rules we will lose the privilege. We hope that you will understand our reasons for introducing these changes, which have already been introduced by some of our neighbouring practices.

**Finally, a reminder that although our doors are open, medicines should be booked in advance.**

## Monmouthshire Herds Competition

By kind permission of The Morgan Family, there will be a farm walk at  
'The Llangeview Herd' on Wednesday 13th July 2022

at Graig Olway Farm, Usk NP15 1NB.

The walk around the cows starts at 7pm.

Russell and the family have invested greatly in the dairy side of the business in recent years, paying particular attention to cow welfare and foot health.

Mole Valley Farmers and Five Star Breeders have kindly sponsored the hog roast and drinks. Therefore, for catering purposes, please could you let us know how many people will be attending by Monday 4th July. The more the merrier!

Emma Young: 07734 079092

## TB Advisory Service

The TB Advisory Service offers free visits in England to discuss TB risk on farm, and offers four simple cost effective, practical recommendations based on the risks identified. The Service has been running for 4 years and is funded by the rural development program for England (RDPE).



Of those farmers that had a free farm visit, 98% said the recommendations at the end were useful and 90% rated the service as excellent. Defra is now funding the TB Advisory Service for the whole of England; previously it was only available for farmers in the high risk and edge areas. This new funding also allows those farming other TB susceptible species (camelids, deer, goats, pigs and sheep) to have visits, not just cattle keepers.

The top 5 recommendations from previous visits include

using badger-proof water and feed troughs, fencing off badger setts from cattle, using the website: [www.ibTB.co.uk](http://www.ibTB.co.uk) to look up a seller's TB history prior to purchase and putting up wildlife cameras to identify what badger activity is in the farm yard and where to prioritise badger proofing measures.



**If you would like to access the service, which will be delivered by one of our vets, Lucy Chubb, either call the practice 01873 840167 or contact TBAS directly.**

For hints and tips on TB biosecurity you can follow TBAS on social media.

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

#### Maximising Suckler Cow Productivity Workshop

Thursday, 28th July at 7pm  
Llanarth Village Hall NP15 2AU

Please contact the office to book your FREE place - 01873 840167 or visit our website for more details

### DON'T FORGET!

Now is the time to monitor the worm egg count in your lambs, before treatment.

Call in for a FEC pack.

Results can usually be reported same day.

### ... STAFF NEWS ...

At the end of this month we say a fond farewell to Jo Jones, our Marketing & HR Manager, who is leaving for a new post with a well-known local business.

We wish her all the best for the future!

## Tickborne Disease Survey

Cases of louping ill, tick-borne fever and babesiosis have been diagnosed both on farms and in some parts of the UK already this year.

We have also heard about some cases where tick control products, in both cattle and sheep, don't seem to have prevented disease occurring. Climate change and potentially increased tick habitat could be reasons why increasing tick burdens might be seen. Considering the type and immunity of stock to be grazed on at risk pasture is essential. We don't see much tick-borne disease in this area, but it could become an issue in the future.

A vet doing an MSc dissertation project at the University of Edinburgh is

looking to gather perceptions on what farmers in Great Britain encountered and what approaches were taken to control of ticks and tickborne disease in 2021. A summary of the findings will appear in a future edition of Cattle Quarterly or Cattle Practice. Both cattle and sheep farmers are invited to participate. The survey should take 15-20 minutes. We would encourage you to participate so that more information can be gathered on the best way of preventing tick borne disease. The survey runs until the end of June and can be accessed via this link: <https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/tick-control-2021>

