



Newsletter September 2019

Dairy Farmers Meeting at South West Dairy Development Centre

We are inviting our dairy clients to a tour of the new **Kingshay Dairy Development Centre at Beard Hill Farm, Shepton Mallet, BA4 6SS at 11:00 on Wednesday, 18th September**. The tour will be followed by a light lunch and short veterinary presentation.

Places for the meeting will be booked on a **strictly first come, first served** basis so please contact the office asap to reserve your place. However, don't panic if you can't attend this meeting as we will be running another course very shortly if there is enough interest.



Significant Changes to Red Tractor Dairy Standards

New issues are emerging all the time, not only in the agricultural industry, but also in the minds of consumers who buy Red Tractor branded products.

The Dairy Standards will incur significant changes from October 2019. These changes will strengthen standards in some areas, providing positive reassurance to consumers and milk buyers on some key issues. It is well documented that an outbreak of disease can be devastating to individual farmers and the whole industry. Consequently the dairy industry is always working hard to ensure the health of individual herds, and, in turn, to improve the health of the national herd.



The main changes are as follows:

Section 1: The Health Plan: A livestock Health Plan, **written in conjunction with your vet**, to proactively manage and improve health and welfare of livestock must be established and implemented. The Health Plan must be used as an active document on farm and will include protocols for: biosecurity policy, infectious disease and vaccination, parasite control, foot care and lameness management, mastitis, metabolic disorders, management of drying off, calving procedures, husbandry procedures, identifying treated animals, pain relief procedures, dealing with TB reactors, downer cows, use of shackles/hobbles and euthanasia.

Section 2: Pain Relief: Pain relief must be provided (and recorded) to all animals that are likely to be in pain due to a health condition, injury or potentially painful procedures.

Section 3: Disease Control: Two compulsory standards re: disease control have been added, which will require farmers to determine their herd/animal status and how the farm is managing the disease risk posed by Johne's and BVD:

- (a) Johne's disease must be managed through the implementation of the National Johne's Management Plan.
- (b) BVD must be managed through a BVD eradication programme designed in conjunction with the farm vet. Eradication programme may include participation in a national scheme (BVDFree England) or membership of CHeCS accredited scheme

Article continues overleaf

Significant Changes to Red Tractor Dairy Standards contd...

Section 4: Vet Antibiotic Review: Includes review of any Cascade or off-label use and recommendations for alternative disease prevention strategies.

Section 5: Medicine Administration Records: Teat sealant also needs to be recorded.

Section 7: Colostrum Management: Colostrum or milk from known Johnne's positive cows must be identified with an alternative provision for calves detailed in health plan (e.g. frozen colostrum from clean cows/powdered colostrum).

Section 8: Medicine Administration: At least one person who is responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training, and holds a certificate of competence/attendance since October 2016. Training courses include MilkSure and veterinary led training courses.

Section 9: Documents : Standards aim to ensure that there are plans and procedures in place to ensure safe and legal food production. Those documents must be displayed in a position available to those involved in farm tasks and anyone who may attend in an emergency situation.

Section 10: Milk Production: Detailed parlour plant cleaning protocol available and on display, including stages of wash and final rinse, products used, water temperature and checks undertaken (frequency). If auto wash used Parlour plant cleaning protocol 12 stages should be detailed along with frequency of checks undertaken.

Section 11: Antibiotic Failures: Each antibiotic failure must be reported to the prescribing vet.

Section 12: Staff: Assessments of skills and competency undertaken and documented.

Please check your new Red Tractor standards booklet to familiarise yourself with the new changes. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you require any assistance and well in advance of your audit so that we can help arrange to have health plans and protocols in place.



TRACEABLE, SAFE
&
FARMED WITH CARE

Agricure Rumen Support Powder



We stock Agricure Rumen Support Powder. This is an ideal supplement to be fed to inappetant cows containing yeast, vitamins, sugars and calcium. It is an oral drench and so can be delivered with an Aggers pump. The vets have been using it on farm and it has proved popular.



Local Anaesthetic

Local Anaesthetic is now back in production and we have plenty of stock in all our offices.



Your local farm veterinary service

North Petherton

Unit 8 Sedgemoor Auction Centre
Market Way North Petherton
Somerset, TA6 6DF
t: 01278 663399

Yarcombe

Stopgate Cross
Yarcombe, Honiton
Devon, EX14 9NB
t: 01404 861214

Ilminster

5 Larchfield Industrial Estate
Dowlsh Ford, Ilminster
Somerset, TA19 0PF
t:01460 55004