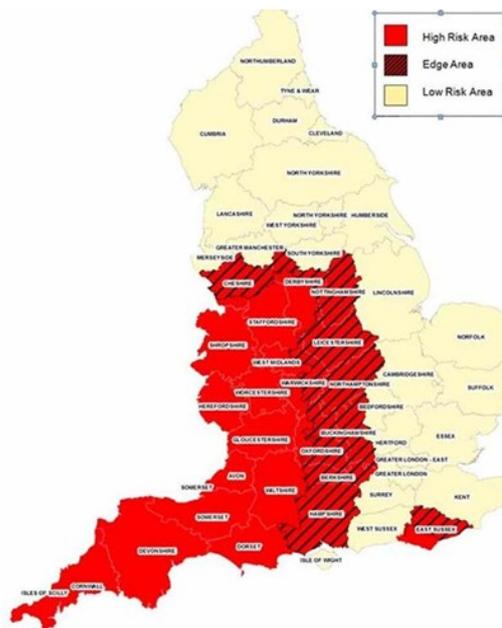


Newsletter December 2019

Changes to TB Testing muted

The APHA are suggesting changes to the frequency with which TB tests are carried out. As part of the plans farms within the high risk area - which includes all of Somerset and Devon (see map to right) – would be subject to 6 monthly testing.

The only farms exempt from this are farms that have not had any reactors or slaughterhouse cases in over 6 years, or farms that have not had any reactors or slaughterhouse cases in the past year that have also signed up for the CHeCS TB accreditation scheme. The CHeCS scheme requires a Vet led TB risk assessment. Our TBAS visits are a fully funded option to help you fulfil this requirement. If you would like to know more on how to join the CHeCS TB scheme, please call the office on 01278 663399 / 01460 55004 and a member of staff will be happy to tell you more about it.



Congratulations to Gonçalo and Ieva!

Goncalo and Ieva welcomed a bonny baby girl into the world on the 24th November 2019. Mother and baby are both doing well. She is yet to be named!



Milksure VS Medicines Course

As some of you may be aware Red Tractor requirements for dairy farms have recently changed and farms are required to have personnel trained in the handling and administering of medicines. To that end we run regular **Medicines Courses** which you will have seen advertised regularly over the last few months and will continue to run every couple of months for the foreseeable future. The next course will be held in February (Decembers course is now full). **This currently fulfils the Red Tractor Requirements as a Veterinary led training course.**

*There has been some degree of confusion with some farms as regards whether or not they need to complete a **Milksure** course to satisfy these requirements. This will typically only be required if your Milk Buyer has specifically requested it or if you have had Bulk tank antibiotic failures in the past.*

Subsidised blood testing for pneumonia in calves

Zoetis are continuing to offer subsidised blood testing for up to 5 calves per farm. This testing looks for antibodies for all of the main viral causes of pneumonia in calves: PI3, IBR, BRSV and BVD as well as the bacteria Mycoplasma.

This can be an excellent means of discovering the initial cause of pneumonia, and will inform you on the most appropriate vaccine to use on your farm.

In order for the test to be effective the calves must be greater than 4 months old and it is preferable that they haven't received any vaccines (as these will then automatically show as positive on the test).

Merry Christmas from FarmVets SouthWest

Our offices are open as normal over the Christmas period except for the following;

Christmas Eve - all offices - **CLOSE AT 1PM**

Christmas Day & Boxing Day - **CLOSED**

New Years Day - **CLOSED**

Don't forget to order and collect medicines in good time!



All at FarmVets SouthWest wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2020



Your local farm veterinary service

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