

## Newsletter December 2020

### Is Lameness the new Milk Contract killer?

Eliot Hedley

Are you losing sleep over bad feet? And no, I don't mean your own. Lameness is a growing concern with milk contracts being more stringent than ever and strict targets being set... If your farm is not one of these, then it soon will be!

We are now having a practice push on reducing lameness in our dairy herds. Therefore, we are now providing independent mobility scoring from a RoMS (Register of Mobility Scorer) accredited vet – we have 4 RoMS qualified vets itching to spend hours and hours mobility scoring cows, who are you to deny them from this pleasure?

We are offering a FREE mobility score on your herd, no strings attached! This offer is **limited to 10 farms**, so first come first serve. We would ask if these scores could be anonymously published in our next newsletter for benchmarking purposes – no one else will know your score but you!



If you miss the free score then do not fret, we charge a very reasonable rate of £54 for up to 2 hours, then £27 an hour thereafter, with no visit fee (prices not including VAT). We hope to routinely be scoring your herds on a minimum 6 monthly basis. This is a great opportunity to have a Vet on farm focussing entirely on mobility for a heavily discounted price.

Please note, any other requests other than mobility scoring will be charged at standard rates and are not guaranteed to be seen immediately by the scorer due to possible time constraints, this isn't a time for us to check sick cows.

Please email: [eliot.hedley@thefarmvets.co.uk](mailto:eliot.hedley@thefarmvets.co.uk) or phone the office to arrange a mobility score. We will be offering a service to help farms reduce lameness in the upcoming months so watch this space!



# Reminders and Notifications

Cormac White

- Thin Ewe Project. There is a free ewe Post-Mortem Scheme to investigate ill thrift in ewes. This involves three comprehensive ewe post-mortems. The animals must be blood tested and euthanased by injection. This is a great opportunity to investigate potential causes of poor-doers within your flock. If you would like to avail of this scheme please contact any of our practices today to register your interest. This funding lasts until the end of December!
- TB Advisory Service. FREE TB Advice Visits in which we can advise on how to reduce your risk of a TB breakdown and to discuss options regarding 6 monthly testing due to start 2020. This funding ends 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 so it is best to avail of it as soon as possible. Contact any of our practices to discuss today.
- Lamb Losses Survey. Please continue to hand in you lamb losses survey data. This can be handed to vet on farm, dropped into any of our branches or emailed to [office@thefarmvets.co.uk](mailto:office@thefarmvets.co.uk). Compare yourself anonymously to other farmers in your area!



## Administration Charges for TB PreMovement work

Art McAlonan

As you would imagine, administrating even the smallest PreMovement test, dealing with DEFRA/APHA and XL vets is a prolonged and labour-intensive task to complete, with much online inputting to carry out. Therefore, there will now be a small administration charge for each private PRMT test (not your annual herd TB test).



### December Opening Times

Please refer to the table on the right for our **OFFICE** opening times across December.

Medicines may be collected in an emergency outside of office hours by arranging with the on-duty vet, but a charge will be made—so please ensure you have enough medicines to last you through to the New Year.



Date	Hours open
Thursday 24th (Christmas Eve)	8am - 1pm
Friday 25th (Christmas Day)	CLOSED
Saturday 26th (Boxing Day)	CLOSED
Monday 28th (Bank Holiday)	CLOSED
29th - 31st	NORMAL HOURS
1st January	CLOSED
2nd January	Bridgwater only 9am -12:30pm
4th January onwards	NORMAL HOURS