



FarmNews

Modern approach, traditional values

March 2023 Newsletter

FREE On-Farm Advice

There is funding again for TB advice visits. These visits have been very well received by the hundreds of farms we have delivered them on.

We now also have funding for Badger Sett Surveys where we map risk spots throughout the farm and help identify setts and runs with high levels of badger activity.

Many of you are now also on 6 monthly testing but through a TBAS visit we can discuss how you could potentially get back on annual testing.

There is significant grant funding at the moment for Badger Proofed troughs, licks and cameras for monitoring farm yards through the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund.



The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund

The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund is now open for grant applications for a range of equipment and systems which will benefit animal health and productivity on your farm. Examples include cattle crushes and handling systems, cluster flush systems, plate meters and automated heat detection systems. This fund also includes considerable grants for Slurry Management for Dairy Farms. Please speak to us for details.



Upcoming meetings

The Next Sheep Discussion Group Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 29th March at 1pm** at **Manor Farm, Stawell, Bridgwater, TA7 9AD**. **Food and refreshments will be provided.**

We will be discussing **'Managing Labour Efficiency on Sheep Farms' - "Time is Money"**

Attendance is FREE to members of Sheep Discussion Group and £15 to Non-members.

The next **Medicines course** will take place on **Wednesday 15th March at 1.30pm** at **Sedgemoor Market**. This course is a Red Tractor requirement for any person on farm that is responsible for storage and administration of drugs.

If you have interest in attending any of these meetings please contact the office on 01278 663399.



Sainsbury's



Do you need to revalidate your Milksure training?

The Milksure course is delivered in 2 parts. The first is usually delivered in the office and covers the technical theory behind residue testing and how to avoid a bulk milk antibiotic failure. It is recommended that this part be repeated every 4 years.

Part 2 (the "top-up") is completed every year by your usual farm Vet on farm.

If it has been 4 years since you completed Part 1 it is best to revalidate. We are running a Part 1 group training session at 1pm on the March 16th at the Bridgwater office. This group session will be less expensive than individual training. To book a place please contact the office.

Arla 360, Sainsbury's and Barber's all expect their suppliers to be fully Milksure compliant.

Turnout checklist - make sure you have addressed these before turnout!

Liver fluke - if your cattle have been housed for more than 10 weeks, treating them with an adult flukicide will kill all the mature fluke that may be infecting them, reducing the number of eggs laid on your pasture. Best practice is to do some dung sample testing first - speak to us for details.

Lungworm - this will depend on your individual farm risk. If your herd is at high risk, you will need to consider vaccinating with an oral dose of live irradiated larvae (Huskvac). The vaccine course must be completed a minimum of two weeks before turnout and it is critical you don't administer any other wormer treatments during the vaccination course, including before and after vaccination.

Minerals - also specific to your farm. If you know that your pastures are lacking in certain minerals such as iodine or copper it is important to supplement before turn out, for example with oral boluses. Magnesium is a critical element that will have fatal and sudden effects if animals become deficient, so daily intakes are essential. Spring poses a significant risk to daily intakes due to high grass protein and potassium levels, which reduce absorption of magnesium through the rumen. This, combined with low magnesium uptake in grass during the spring months, can be disastrous for magnesium blood levels in cattle. You need to ensure you provide a readily available source of magnesium at about 30g a cow a day in either a compound feed, supplementary mineral or bolus format.

Vaccination - **BLACKLEG** is a clostridial disease that has an increased risk period at turnout. Vaccination is inexpensive and requires two doses as a primary course. Leptospirosis is also an important consideration before turnout. It can be transmitted through open watercourses. Ensure your cattle are protected before turnout.

Importance notice

We cannot accept returns on vaccines. Please check what you have ordered is the correct vaccine in the correct amount, as once they have been purchased we are not allowed to accept them back.

Did you know our Vet Techs can....

- carry out Freeze Branding on heifers?
- carry out disbudding as part of a regular service?
- monitor calf growth rates on dairy farms?
- administer vaccines for you (adult cattle, calves, sheep, goats)?
- carry out Teat scoring?
- carry out Body Condition Scoring?
- carry out Mobility scoring?
- do Faecal Worm Egg Counts (sheep and cattle)?
- blood sample calves to check for colostrum uptake?
- sample young calves to find out what is causing the scour problem?