

## Upcoming Meetings

### We will be hosting a meeting for beef suckler farmers on Monday October 9th.

This will be held at Smithy Farm, Congleton by kind permission of Roger and Julie Egglestone from 4.00pm onwards and will include talks on controlling pneumonia in youngstock and effective control of fluke and worms. **To book a place please contact the office or email: [holliedale@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:holliedale@wmvets.co.uk)**

### We will also be hosting an evening meeting for smallholders on Thursday September 28th.

This will include talks on common conditions of goats, poultry, pigs, sheep and camelids as well as guidance on improving fertility in cows and on how APHA legislation applies to you. It will be held at Gawsorth village Hall from 7.00pm onwards. **To book a place please contact the office or email: [jennielomas@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:jennielomas@wmvets.co.uk)**

### The next meeting of the Commercial Flock Health Group will be held on Thursday September 14th.

To discuss pre-tupping exams amongst other topics. **If you are interested in attending please contact Matt on 07816 440306 or email: [mattraine@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:mattraine@wmvets.co.uk)**

### Jenny M will be hosting the next meeting of the Youngstock Club on Tuesday September 19th from 10.30am - 3.00pm.

The meeting will cover the first few weeks of life, including nutrition, environment, diarrhoea and pneumonia. It will include a practical session in the afternoon. **If you are interested in attending please contact Jenny on 07791 549199 or email: [jenny.torrance@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:jenny.torrance@wmvets.co.uk)**

### We have a stand at this years Cheshire Ploughing Match which is being held on Wednesday September 27th at Woods Tenement Farm in Plumley.

We'll be well equipped with tea, coffee, beers and biscuits and look forward to seeing lots of you there!

## Congratulations

Congratulation to our lead TB Testing Vet Nieves and her husband David on the arrival of their new baby daughter! Marina arrived on Thursday August 24th - just 3 weeks and 6 days after Nieves completed her most recent TB test! Mother and baby came home the same day and are both doing well with the help of 3 year old big brother Samuel.



## Coughing Cattle



It's that time of year again; we often see outbreaks of lungworm in grazing cattle throughout September. The first sign is coughing which is particularly noticeable if animals exert themselves; left untreated this will gradually worsen, animals may lose condition, display open mouth breathing and in some cases even die.

Whilst outbreaks are most common in youngstock disease can also be seen in adult cows, particularly dairy cows who have been purchased from another farm. If they haven't been exposed to lungworm as youngsters then they will be highly susceptible to infection as adults and signs can be severe.

Lungworm is easily controlled through use of Husk-vac and appropriate worming treatment. If you are concerned about lungworm in your herd please contact any of the vets for advice.

## Product News

Intradine has been discontinued. If this is a product that you have been using then please speak to any of the vets for advice on alternatives.



## Reducing Use of the Critically Important Antibiotics

Thank you to all of our dairy farmers who have provided Hollie with up to date information regarding cow numbers in their herds. We have been able to use this information to assess each farms use of the critically important antibiotics. If you work regularly with one of the vets then they will share your farm's analysis with you over the next few weeks, however if you would like to know how you are doing before then please contact **Hollie on 07733 121545**. All data will be kept confidential so you will be the only person to know how your farm is performing.



## Best Practice: Use Of Blocks to Aid Recovery in Lame Cows

### Why block?

Blocking a cows foot takes weight off the affected claw to aid recovery. It also reduces pain whilst the cow is walking/standing.

### Types of block

There are a variety of blocks available on the market:

- Wooden blocks are reversible, can be shaped easily and are relatively cheap, but they wear quickly and do not give as much grip as rubber ones.
- Demotec green shoes are very hard wearing, they automatically position the block to the rear of the claw and are provide good grip. They usually require removal and are slightly more expensive.
- Soft rubber blocks sometimes called wear pads are available for cows with thin soles. These are soft and unlike hard blocks don't risk causing any bruising to the claw.

### Application

- Always check that the claw is sound before applying the block. There is no point putting a block on a bruised claw. The claw must be clean and dry. Make sure that the claw is trimmed correctly and then with the hook of the knife score grooves on the wall and sole to aid adhesion.
- When applying the block keep the glue away from the bulb of the heel. Smooth the glue so there are no sharp edges which can irritate the fleshy parts of the foot. The block should be positioned approximately an inch from the front of the toe to prevent the cow rolling back on her heel and to protect from damage during heelstrike. Draw an imaginary line from the middle of the cows hock to the interdigital space and line the block up with it. Make sure that it is level and not tilting inwards. Some people advise placing the block slightly higher to the inside of the claw (axially) to help lift the bad claw off the ground. Don't press the block on too hard or you will squeeze all the glue out. Apply moderate pressure and hold until glue sets. A heat gun can be used to speed this up.
- Cows should be rechecked four weeks after the block has been placed to check progress and blocks should always be removed after six weeks. If wooden blocks are wearing unevenly they should be removed and replaced. Bear in mind that the commonest cause of uneven wear is incorrect positioning of the block.

### Common mistakes

- Don't use too small a block as it won't support the heel. Most blocks come in standard and extra large sizes.
- Check that you haven't left any sharp edges of glue that can irritate the interdigital space.
- Quite often the bulb of the heel on the diseased claw is swollen; make sure that the edge of the block is not catching this as the cow walks. It can be helpful to shape the block here if needs be.



### Tips

- Block the claw as soon as you think you will need to just in case the cow starts playing up. At least you will have got a block on even if you have not finished trimming the affected claw.
- Trim the other foot. She will have been putting more stress on this foot trying to take weight off her lame one. Always trim the lame foot first.
- Use of an anti-inflammatory such as Ketofen has been proven to speed healing and more importantly reduce the chance of long term damage to the pedal bone if administered early.

## Calendar

Entries are now open for this year's Wright & Morten Calendar. We're looking for photographs of farming life and our favourite twelve will feature in next years calendar. You are welcome to enter as many photographs as you like.

Please email entries to [stephlyth@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:stephlyth@wmvets.co.uk)



## Have you heard about the Farming Community Network?

The Farming Community Network (FCN) is a voluntary organisation and charity that supports farmers and families within the farming community through difficult times. They have a network of over 400 volunteers across England and Wales, many of whom are involved in farming, or have close links with Agriculture, and therefore have a great understanding of the issues farm workers and farming families regularly face. They also provide a confidential, national telephone Helpline which is available from 7.00am until 11.00pm every day of the year for anyone who needs it.

The Helpline number is **03000 111 999** or they can be contacted via their website at <http://www.fcn.org.uk/>



### Farm & Equine Offices Lower Withington

The Barn, Holly Tree Farm, Holmes Chapel Road, Lower Withington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9DT

Tel: 08458 330034 or 01477 571686  
Email: [hollytree@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:hollytree@wmvets.co.uk)

### Whaley Bridge Farm Branch

Block B, Ringstones Industrial Estate, Whaley Bridge, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 7PD

Tel: 01463 732564

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