

## Product News



Both Toxovax and Cevac Chlamydia are now available to order through the office. Remember that the latest you can vaccinate ewes is four weeks prior to tupping, however they can be vaccinated up to four months prior to tupping. Ewe lambs must be at least five months of age when they are vaccinated. The earlier you order your vaccines the better, as we do often see manufacturing issues later in the season.



**We are currently offering a 5% discount on all Toxovax ordered for use by 31st August, for more information please ring the office and speak to Rachael.**

## TB Queries?

Please bear in mind that recent changes in data protection regulations mean that we are only able to obtain limited information from APHA regarding TB testing for individual farms.

If you have a query regarding matters such as when your next TB test is due, results from blood testing or cultures or the lifting of movement restrictions then please ring APHA directly. Their phone number is 03000 200 301.

## Changes to Red Tractor Requirements



From June 1st 2018 those farms with Red Tractor Assurance, can only use the highest priority, critically important antibiotics, as a last resort and under the direction of a vet, backed up by diagnostic testing, culture and sensitivity. The highest priority critically important antibiotics include cobactan, cephaloguard dry cow tubes and cevaxel. If you would like to discuss how to implement this change on your farm then please contact the office and speak to any of the farm vets.

Don't forget that we regularly run Mastering Medicines Workshops which will help you to make better use of medicines and to comply with Red Tractor requirements. To register your interest in upcoming courses please ring the office and speak to Vicky.

## Cheshire Show

This year we ventured to Cheshire Show and set up camp in the Agri-Centre, it was the first time we attended as 'exhibitors' and although it was a very long couple of days, we all really enjoyed getting to see so many of our lovely clients and seeing some of your wonderful animals take part in so many competitions.



We challenged the children who came to see us to dress up like a vet and to help look after our soft toy animals. We send a big thank you to everyone at Tatton Park Farm for lending us some great outfits, toy veterinary equipment and some amazing stuffed toys that actually gave birth!

We are looking forward to being part of Cheshire Show each year and have already started planning for 2019.

## Look Out For Fly Strike

Fly season is well and truly upon us and we have seen several cases of fly strike this month. Remember that fly protection products only spread a limited distance across the skin and may not reach extremities including the feet and teats. Bryan has seen several severe cases of digital dermatitis this month where lesions have been complicated by fly strike. The risk of fly strike is also increased in open wounds or if animals have skin damage for any other reason such as scour. We stock both Ectofly and Spotinor at competitive prices; please speak to Rachael for a quote.

## Upcoming Courses

Helen is organising a practical training session on selective dry cow therapy and tube infusion techniques.

This is very much a hands on session, using PM udders, so delegates will leave feeling confident of their infusion techniques of both antibiotic tubes and sealant. Guidance will be given on the selection of cows for drying off with or without antibiotics.

The plan is to hold this in the east of the practice - possibly Wincle/Buxton, but can be anywhere depending on demand.

**Please can anyone who is interested in attending contact Helen on 07733 121536 or [helenworth@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:helenworth@wmvets.co.uk) so a convenient date/location can be chosen.**

## BVDFree England

**BVDFree England is a voluntary industry-led scheme, working to eliminate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) from all cattle in England by 2022. The key to success is to identify and remove all animals persistently infected (PI) with the BVD virus from the English cattle herd.**



The scheme is built around a national database, [bvdfree.org.uk](http://bvdfree.org.uk), which is searchable for the BVD status of individual animals and herds tested under the scheme. Farmers must register with BVDFree to enable their herds' BVD test results to be uploaded to the database. Individual animal BVD status can be found by entering a UK tag number, or you can search the database for a herd's BVD status using the CPH number. This provides farmers with recognition, confidence and traceability when buying and selling BVDFree cattle.

Eradicating BVD is a very realistic possibility – in fact several counties in Europe have already done so, and both Scotland and Ireland have introduced compulsory eradication programmes. England hasn't as yet, but we can't afford to lag behind if we want our cattle industry to compete in the future!

BVD can have a huge financial impact on your business – The estimated cost of active infection is £50-100 per breeding animal, and a breakdown in a naïve herd can cost £9,000-27,000 per 100 animals! Most of this is through production loss, so it is dangerously easy to live with BVD, and not realise how much it is costing you. BVD infection causes:

- Transient infection causing fever, milk drop, diarrhoea, poor fertility and abortions
- Immunosuppression – making cows and calves more susceptible to all other diseases, including pneumonia, diarrhoea, mastitis and TB
- Associated losses through lower milk yields, poor calf growth, vet care and medicines, increased calving index and increased feed costs; even an increased risk of TB breakdown!



We always talk about PIs with BVD – so what are they exactly? If a cow is infected during pregnancy, the virus enters the womb and infects the calf too. If the calf is infected as it's immune system is developing, the immune system thinks that the virus is a normal part of the calf. The calf will never produce antibodies or be able to fight off the virus, allowing the virus to replicate uncontrolled, and the calf will shed the virus in huge volumes for it's entire life. PI calves can be very weakly and die at a few days old, or they can also appear completely normal, and survive in the herd for many years! **It's very difficult to control BVD without removing ALL the PIs from your herd – just vaccinating unfortunately isn't enough.** PIs shed so much virus that vaccinated animals can still come down with the disease.

The first step in tackling BVD is to find out what the status of your herd is. We are currently able to offer a youngstock screen subsidised by the lab – which means you don't pay for the lab test itself.



By screening five to six animals between the ages of 9-18 months (and not already vaccinated) for BVD antibody, we can see if there has recently been virus circulating in your herd, and discuss the next steps with you depending on the results. An ideal time to do this is on a whole herd TB test, when you are already handling all the animals.

Defra have recently launched a new initiative providing funding to support BVD control in cattle herds. This initiative is being managed by the SAC and can provide funding both to herds who don't know their BVD status and to those who are already engaging with BVD control.

**For more information please ring the practice and speak to any of our vets.**



### Farm & Equine Offices Lower Withington

The Barn, Holly Tree Farm,  
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**Tel: 08458 330034 or 01477 571000**

**Email: [hollytree@wmvets.co.uk](mailto:hollytree@wmvets.co.uk)**

### Whaley Bridge Farm Branch

Block B, Ringstones Industrial Estate,  
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SK23 7PD

**Tel: 01663 732564**

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