



News

Autumn 2024

Welcome

It felt like there was a definite shift in the season in the second week of September, as the summer rolled out and the autumn rolled in. We had a good summer in the FAP, with days out at the North and Mid-Somerset shows, and of course the summer is a good time to be a farm vet, enjoying the sun on our faces, newborn Crias on the ground and seeing most of our patients enjoying being out at grass.

The start of Autumn also saw us say goodbye to Dylan our receptionist and TB administrator, who we wish all the best going forwards. His departure sees Maddy return from maternity leave, and we also welcome Beth who will be working part time as a job share with Maddy. Another new face to watch out for is newly graduated vet Jemma who has settled into the team already and is starting to stretch her wings as a farm vet! I look forward to seeing many of you at some of our upcoming events, out on farm and of course at the Christmas social (how did that come around so quickly again?!) - Andrea

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5pm

Telephone: 01934 852 650

24 hour emergency cover

Email us: farmpractice@langfordvets.co.uk

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Insta:



Upcoming

- 29th Oct: Antibiotic resistance in livestock and 'medicine use training' for Red tractor accreditation
- 25th Nov: New vaccine for cryptosporidium control in calves (Pizza & drinks provided)
- 4th Dec: Christmas Social in the Langford Bar: Pool, darts, fundraising raffle and buffet food

A hello from...



Jemma Hooper: I graduated from the University of Bristol this summer and have now returned to Langford as a vet. Having grown up in Somerset, I'm looking forward to staying in the local area to enjoy the countryside, and developing my interests in bovine health and other areas of farm practice.



Beth Kent: I live locally with my husband and 2 small children on a small beef and sheep farm. I have been a Small Animal Veterinary Nurse at Langford Vet Practice for the last 8 years. I decided to move across to the Farm Animal Practice for a new challenge and to combine my two interests, farming and veterinary! Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my crazy cocker spaniel, Willow, and my retired racehorse, Pea.

Updates:

FREE TB Advisory Service Visit

If you are interested ahead of your animals coming into housing, please contact the practice to book with one of our TBAS advisor vets.

Registration of Birds

Since 1st October all birdkeepers, regardless of flock size, are required to officially register their birds under new measures announced by Defra.

Keepers of fewer than 50 birds visit:

bit.ly/47Z7J91

Keepers of 50 birds or more visit:

bit.ly/4eV8HW3



During the warmer summer months worm burdens build up on grazing and can cause clinical signs at the end of the season and into Autumn. Pig lungworm (*Metastrongylus Apri*) is most common in pigs kept at outdoor grazing due to the earthworm being part of the life cycle. Important clinical signs to look out for:

- Coughing
- Increased respiratory effort
- Lethargy
- Weight loss

The larvae can survive for long periods, meaning pasture can remain infected. Bought in pigs can then become infected from your pasture, or alternatively bring in new infection to your clean pasture. Read the full-length article to find out more about the lifecycle of the worm and how to test and treat your pigs.

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

Have you completed an Animal Health and Welfare Pathway application with your vet within the last 10 months?

Once the initial health review and testing has been completed, you can now apply for bolt-on funding.

After carrying out further testing for certain diseases, you can then receive an additional payment on top of the initial AHWP payment.

* The funding available for beef farms depends on the result of your BVD check test. Please note that there is currently no bolt-on funding available for dairy farms.

Testing for beef cattle focuses on Bovine Viral Diarrhoea virus (BVD) and testing for pigs focuses on Porcine Respiratory & Reproductive Syndrome virus (PRRS). For sheep, however, the requirements for the bolt-on funding are more flexible, and you can pick and choose one or more tests from a list. This means that this next step of the Health & Welfare Pathway can be tailored to your flock, with you and your vet deciding on which area is most relevant to you.

Find out more:

bit.ly/3XUi4P8

bit.ly/4dFWMui

Bluetongue (BTV-3) outbreak – what's the latest?

The latest outbreak of bluetongue virus (BTV-3) is a rapidly developing situation – by the time this newsletter is out, there will probably already be changes to the number and spread of cases, where the control zones are, and what kind of vaccine strategy we will be using! At the point of writing, the current outbreak is around the east of the country, with a large restriction zone, an up-to-date map of which can be found at APHA Interactive Bluetongue Virus Map:

bit.ly/3TUQKz9

The virus is spread by biting midges, and the initial cases can be traced to infected midges being blown over from continental Europe. These insects are weak fliers, so mainly rely on prevailing wind to travel – it is unlikely that they will move as far west as Somerset, but not impossible, so we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Read the full article for more information on clinical signs, testing and vaccinating:

bit.ly/3ZSXQYw

