

Farm Animal Practice News

Langford Vets 

 University of
BRISTOL

Farmer
Autumn 2023

Welcome to the Farm Animal Practice

This summer seemed to be one of extremes; either weeks of baking hot weather with not a rain drop in sight, or constant rain for weeks at a time. It seems like this might be the way the weather systems are more frequently in the future and so is something we all need to try to prepare for as best we can, be it with parasite control (we saw a lot of haemonchus worm this year) or harvesting forage crops early to try to maximise yields where possible. This is something that was discussed at our evening meeting looking at sustainability in farming with Kite consulting in June, thanks to those that attended! With preparedness in mind now is the time to look ahead to autumn and winter – the rams will be going in soon and treatment at housing/ pre-winter of animals should be planned ahead of time – please speak to us for advice on worm/ fluke/ ectoparasite treatments as well as what vaccines might be worth considering ahead of housing so we can have a plan ready!

We have completed a number of animal health and welfare pathway visits now - don't miss out on free funding for veterinary testing and advice, particularly for sheep for which the wormer testing will be best done at this time of year! Again, speak to any of the team or look up: www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway.

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Student Update

Our final years are now getting on for being halfway through their year of clinical placements. It's a busy year for them moving around placements within the Langford site and at partner practices too. Before they join the farm practice they have usually spent time in the on site small animal referral hospital doing surgery, anaesthesia and on placements in charity practices, so being out on farms is quite a change of scene for them! The students share their thoughts on their experiences at the end of their time with us; they always value the opportunity to get involved; whether that's giving vaccinations or other medications, examining less commonly encountered farm species such as alpacas and hens and supporting the team in procedures. For example, in this most recent block our students supported the vets castrating alpacas, performing vasectomies and with cattle caesareans. They also highly value time chatting to you all, as this time next year they will be out in practice and working alongside clients themselves. So whether that's asking you questions to gather the background information for the cases they are seeing, or chatting to you about your animals and holdings these experiences are very much appreciated.



Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5pm

Telephone: 01934 852 650
24 hour emergency cover

Email us: farmpractice@langfordvets.co.uk

Web: langfordvets.co.uk/farm

Farm Animal Practice, Langford Vets,
Langford House, Langford, BS40 5DU

Staffing Update

If you've visited the farm practice or called us recently you may have spoke to our new Receptionist and TB Administrator Dylan. Dylan graduated with a masters degree in Zoology from University of Bristol. He is passionate about animals be it caring for his dog and tortoise or studying invertebrate communities in forests. We're sure you'll give him a warm welcome.

Meet Rob, who teaches at the vet school and will be doing some locum work with us for the foreseeable future. Rob grew up raising Herefords on his family farm in Kansas, USA. As such, he has a passion for farming, animal welfare, and more recently, teaching. Rob trained to be a vet in Glasgow after studying evolutionary biology in California. He has just started his 25th year in clinical practice and has worked in the US, Scotland, New Zealand, and before Bristol he taught farm animal medicine at the Cambridge vet school (including their referral hospital). Rob says he's excited to meet some of the local farmers and smallholders, explore a bit more of Somerset, and hopefully help some critters in the process!



As many of you will already be aware Sarah Woollatt is sadly leaving the practice this autumn in order to move to Cardiff with her partner. Sarah has contributed so much to the practice in the years that she has worked here and her hard work, excellent clinical knowledge and particular eye for detail will be sorely missed. We wish her all the best in the future and hope she stays in contact with us all in the practice.

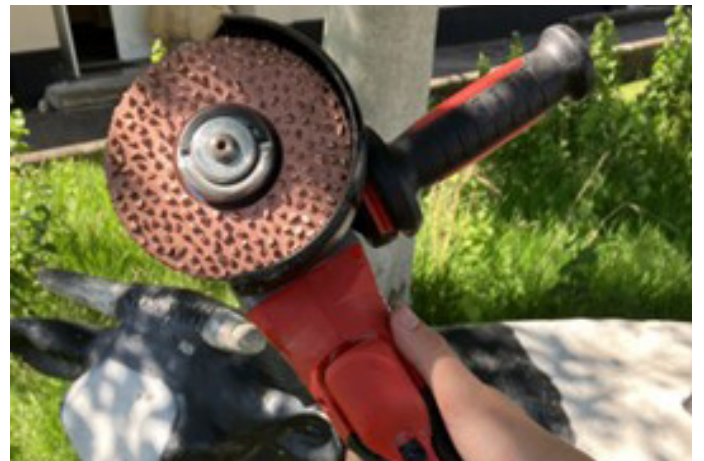


We will be at the Dairy show on the 4th October - come and find us there!

Foot Trimming - Crush and Grinder

We have recently acquired a new angle grinder which we have fitted with a foot grinding disc. This has improved how we can trim lame cows as we can be more efficient, reducing the time that the cow needs to have her foot up. We also have a hydraulic foot crush which we can tow out to farm if you do not have a suitable foot crush already, which can make the trim safer for everyone (set fee for this).

We are happy to help with any lame beef or dairy cow trims and block applications. Treating lameness early improves outcomes for the cow - reduces repeat lameness, improves animal condition and keeps them comfortable!



Follow us on social media!

 @langfordvetsfarm

 @langfordfarmvets

Check out our Instagram



You said, we did

Thank you to everyone who gave their time in April/May to fill out a feedback form or have discussions with our vets about our services. All the feedback we received was hugely valuable, and we have been working on implementing changes within the practice to help us best meet your needs. Below are some examples of feedback suggestions that we received and what we already do, or have already implemented, in response to this feedback. If you did not fill out the last feedback form, and would like to send us some feedback, we are always interested to hear from you!

Feedback - You said	Action - We did
'It would be helpful for vets to carry a price list for consumables etc.'	Going forwards our vets will carry price lists that will include standard services/procedure prices as well as prices for seasonal and common consumables and nutraceuticals so that they can give you a quote for items that you may be interested in purchasing during a vet visit. Alternatively, a quick quote can always be phoned through from our reception team whilst the vet is on your farm.
'It would be good if the practice were open on a Saturday.'	Did you know that vet visits on a Saturday from 8:30am -12pm do not incur an out-of-hours visit fee? While we do reserve weekend time for emergency work, as we only have one vet on duty, if you call for a visit on a Saturday morning, the rates will be the same as on weekdays. In addition to this, last year we installed a lockbox at the practice so that if you order drugs or consumables and cannot collect them in normal office hours, you can collect any time that is convenient to you!
'I would like to be invoiced sooner after a vet visit.'	We have moved from monthly to weekly invoicing for one-off visits. For ongoing cases, we will delay invoicing until the end of the month or until treatment has been completed, whichever is sooner. More immediate invoicing can be made possible on request - please ask at the time of booking your visit, and we can discuss your specific circumstances. External fees such as lab tests or couriers may need to be invoiced at a later point due to their charging systems.
'It would be helpful for vets to gain more information over the phone/ advise on things owners can do at home.'	We have introduced a phone consultation system. This means that if you would like advice about anything, or have a question for a vet, we can book a phone call at a time that suits you. This is a free service for very brief queries, however longer consultations will be charged for at the vets' discretion. If a phone consult results in a vet visit within 24 hours, the charge will be removed.

Wormer Treatment Checks - Getting Maximal Value

Hopefully plenty of you have registered for the new Defra-funded Animal Health and Welfare Pathway funding for vet visits and disease testing. Those with sheep - one of the main aims of the visits is to test for wormer resistance in lambs, a growing problem in the UK fuelled by a warming climate and heavy reliance on wormers in the past. This is a great opportunity to get a personalised picture of the worm populations on your farm, to help you choose the right wormers and preserve their effectiveness for future.

Having now trialled it in the practice, we've got the hang of the process needed for claiming back your vet funding successfully:

- This testing is for LAMBS not ewes/adult sheep
- Before we start the test, you need to find a wormy group via a regular faecal egg count - most likely in the late Summer/Autumn
- Once you've identified they need worming, take more samples on the day of wormer dosing
- We need 15 individual, fresh lamb samples of 1 teaspoon in size each, packed individually
- These must be posted to the lab quickly (or kept in the fridge for up to 2 days)
- Repeat the sampling process 7 days after dosing with yellow drenches, or 14 days for any other colour drench



To make this process simpler, you can pick up sample collection packs from us in FAP. These include gloves, zippy bags, a form and pre-paid postage to the lab - two sets of each, for pre and post treatment samples. Any queries, do pick up the phone and we'll get you up to speed!

Kite Consulting: Sustainability in agriculture

Thanks to all those who attended the farmers evening in June, and particular thanks to Marcus Doig of Kite consulting for presenting about possible options for more sustainability in agriculture. During the evening we covered a number of topics including the potential benefits and pitfalls of the trade of 'carbon credits' to the agricultural industry, how soil sampling to review the need for fertilizer spreading could be beneficial for the environment and your pocket, and how maximizing forage yield from your acreage in more intensive systems by cutting silage earlier could result in making more from less. All of this and much more sparked a lot of conversation at the end of the presentation and hopefully everyone went away with some new thoughts or ideas. Thanks again to those who came and contributed their opinions and experiences for others to learn from.



Changes to RCVS Guidelines

As of the 1st of September some new regulations came into force from the RCVS, the organisation that regulates the veterinary profession and therefore every vet practice in the country. These changes relate to the prescription of certain medicines, particularly antibiotics, antiparasitics and antivirals. As we are sure you are aware, as a practice we are already particularly diligent of how we prescribe but please note that if you have not had a visit to your premises to see your animals within 12 months, if any major management changes have happened or if we are not familiar with your setup, we cannot prescribe these medications. For the very few small animals (farm cats or dogs) we may occasionally prescribe for, these now need to be examined for every prescription including flea and worm treatments.



Veterinary attestation forms introduced in December

From the 13th December 2023 producers will need to have a signed 'veterinary attestation' form in order to send animals to slaughter so that the animal and / or part of the animal can be exported outside of the UK. Since some parts of nearly all animals sent to slaughter are exported to the EU this will be applicable to all producers, including those selling direct to slaughter or via a market.

This new legislation is required for the export of 'products of animal origin' to the EU and requires that the farm of origin has had regular veterinary visits, including discussions about certain notifiable diseases.

What do you need to do?

Producers will need to have a declaration form signed by a vet to say that they have had a vet visit to discuss animal health, specifically regarding notifiable diseases, and biosecurity. This can be done at the same time as a vet visit for another purpose, including TB testing, herd health visits or APHA funded visits such as TBAS (TB advisory service).

Farms that are certified under certain assurance schemes do not need to complete the veterinary declaration. Assurance schemes (in England) under which it is accepted that the farm of origin meets the requirement for regular vet visits include:

- Annual animal health and welfare pathway review (England only)
- Red tractor

Since the veterinary attestations will be a requirement after December the 13th we advise you get these done now where possible. Until the 13th December farmer attestation forms can be used.

Producers must get a new veterinary attestation form every 12 months and if done at a visit for another purpose an administration fee only will be charged. If you wish for the form to be back-dated from a previous visit it will be valid for 12 months from that visit and you may be required to have a phone consultation with a vet to meet the requirements to discuss the particular diseases covered by the form.

If you have any question about this or would like to book a visit to get a veterinary attestation form signed please give us a call.