



News

Winter 2025

Welcome

Despite the new year bringing a cold snap, the mild and wet winter that went before it means we are still seeing ongoing high parasite burdens and associated disease, particularly in small ruminants – keep going with the egg counts!

Other than rain we had a good end of the year in FAP with our new(ish) staff Jemma and Beth becoming fully settled into the practice so we are ready for the busy lambing season with a full and enthusiastic team!

Speaking of lambing, we are running our popular practical lambing day again this year – point any new staff or new-to-lambing family members in our direction! We are looking forward to see what 2025 brings for us all, and in some cases (see below) we are hoping for the best but preparing for the worst.

Regardless, wishing you all a happy and healthy 2025 for you and your animals. See you soon... maybe!

- Andrea

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, BS40 5DU

@langfordvetsfarm



Insta:

@langfordfarmvets



Upcoming

- Lambing Day Course - Sat 8/2/25 9:30am-3pm
Sponsored by MSD
- Plasma Drive - Mon 10/3/25 - Contact us to discuss your camelid plasma requirements
- Bluetongue Farmers' Meeting - Wed 19/3/25 7pm



Bluetongue

With Bluetongue cases still being identified into mid-Dec and much of the east of England still under restriction for animal movements, we are not out of the woods yet with regards to this disease.

Since the disease is midge-spread it is likely that transmission will be significantly reduced if not halted by the recent cold weather, but it remains to be seen how things will play out into the coming spring and summer. For more info:

bit.ly/BluetongueFeb25

**Give us a call to attend our
Bluetongue Farmer's Meeting on
Wed 19/3/25 at 7pm!**

Avian influenza

Avian Influenza has recently been identified in the east of the country, with 3 counties now under housing restriction for birds, both commercial and backyard. Bird flu is mainly spread through contact with infected wild birds and their faeces.

Symptoms, recognition, and preventative measures:

bit.ly/BirdBluFeb25

It is a legal requirement for all birds to be registered with the APHA and for premises to have a CPH number, even just a couple of backyard chickens! Register at:

bit.ly/RegBirdsFeb25



Bull fertility testing - is he working?!

Bull fertility is clearly crucial to maintaining an adequate and tight calving period.

Completely infertile bulls can be devastating, but sub-fertility (where the semen counts or motility is impaired) can result in poorer scanning results and extended calving periods, which can have knock-on effects on calf growth, weaning weight, and sales.

When to test?

We recommend an annual pre-breeding exam 6-8 weeks before his introduction. This allows you time to make plans if the fertility is not what it should be.

The test is always a snapshot of the fertility on that day and is influenced by the previous 2 months.

How does the testing work?

We always start with a full physical exam of the bull to check over his general health. This is followed by a more detailed examination of the internal and external sex organs.

A semen sample is collected following stimulation with a rectal probe. The sample is examined promptly on farm under a microscope to evaluate the motility, morphology (are the cells shape and structure normal?) and an estimate of number of sperm in the sample.

If you would like more information, do get in touch with us.

01934 852 650



New vaccines!

A few new vaccines have recently hit the market.

Cryptium

To be used in your dry cows, to help increase the maternal antibodies present in the colostrum against cryptosporidium, which is a common cause of scour.

Protivity

A vaccine that can help control Mycoplasma bovis, which can cause pneumonia in calves.

Clostridial disease and vaccination

Clostridia are a group of bacteria found in the environment, but can cause disease and sudden death, particularly in sheep, goats, and alpacas.

It is important that we protect our animals against these with vaccination. There are lots of different vaccines available that cover for different strains, including but not limited to; Lambivac, Heptavac and Bravoxin.

We are currently experiencing some supply issues with Heptavac P.(which covers for 5 different Clostridia bacteria as well as Pasturella and Mannheimia) Please call the practice to discuss what other options may be available.

Lambivac covers for 3 key clostridia, whilst Bravoxin covers for 10. Neither, however, cover for Pasturella – a common cause of pneumonia.

If you would like more information about vaccinating your animals and the options available, please contact the practice or speak to one of our vets.

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