

farmnews

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE
FOR ALL SPECIES OF ANIMALS

DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL JUNE 2009

BUTOX SWISH VALUE PACK - An economic and effective fly and midge control this summer...

DROVE OPEN DAY - Come and view our super facilities on 19th July 2009

A member of  Excellence in Practice

BOVINE TB - CONTROL MEASURES

I attended an interesting meeting recently on how to slow the spread of Bovine TB eastwards into East Hampshire, Buckinghamshire, Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. I'm sure all of us have some very basic control measures to do with infected animal reservoirs that we could advance!

However, there were a few points raised which I feel should be emphasised.

- 1 If purchasing cattle ensure the pre-move test has been done if required. (It's required for all animals moving off a holding in a parish with a 12 or 24 month testing interval.) If the pre-move test is not needed due to a greater parish testing interval, why not be certain by having a private TB test done. Again, it should be done **BEFORE MOVEMENT** as you do not want to find the reactor on your farm. Ideally the cattle should be moved as soon as possible after testing to reduce the possibility of infection being picked up between testing and moving.
- 2 Check the vendor's TB test records for the past 2 years. The vendor can get these free of charge from Defra.
- 3 If sending cattle to 'keep', ALL premises associated with those cattle must adopt the shortest testing interval of the parishes involved.
- 4 All testing must be carried out as promptly as possible or movement restrictions will be applied.
- 5 Biosecurity; TB spreads from animal to animal so:
 - Double fence 3 metres apart from stock-owning neighbour

- Keep your stock in - keep your neighbour's out!
- Keep badgers and all vermin from feed stores
- Fence off badger setts and latrines.

Finally, I've heard that the better TB compensation received by Welsh farmers is pushing up the price of dairy heifers in the West Country to £2,000 plus. This should focus our minds on all culling reasons relevant to the dairy herd as they cannot be easily replaced.

So fertility management and lameness control are paramount.

On the fertility side, the constant issues we see are poor heat expression/observation and cystic ovaries both related to high yields and the difficulty of achieving adequate energy intakes in early lactation. At this time of the year, high yielding cows at grass on a cold wet day are unlikely to achieve the intakes they need unless the pasture management and buffer feeding are excellent.

For lameness control, Janet Blikmans in our team runs foot trimming days and also mobility scoring exercises. Now is a good time to target digital dermatitis control with frequent Kling On Blue foot treatment as the feet of cows at grass are less heavily contaminated with dung and solutions are more effective.



ANDREW TURKINGTON
MRCVS - DROVE PARTNER

Andrew has decided to leave the partnership and return to his native Northern Ireland to live and to work in a veterinary practice over there.

Whilst Andrew's principal role has always been as a partner on the small animal side of our business, he will be known to many of you on farms because his abilities in all veterinary spheres allowed him to help on our large animal rota in recent years.

The 'Drove' was his first job from qualifying at Cambridge and he quickly became a dependable and talented member of our team.

We all wish him and his family a happy and successful return to Northern Ireland.

If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss the use of our services then please do not hesitate to contact us at the farm office: 01793 501499. Or visit our website at: www.drovevets.co.uk.



BUTOX SWISH VALUE PACK

As with all insect populations the adult is a tiny proportion of all the egg and larval stages in the environment.

Therefore, early treatment of the adult population is essential to keep the numbers from exploding into a plague. Begin to treat flies **NOW** and the population will be controlled much better.

For economic and effective fly and midge control this summer please look no further than our Swish Value Pack. This includes 10 litres of Swish PLUS 2 FREE litres and an applicator so you can treat 395 cattle over 300kg with this pack, please ring us for our best price, 01793 501499.

TYRES FOR SILAGE

DO THEY HAVE ENOUGH 'TREAD'!

We still diagnose 'wire' disease (traumatic reticulo-peritonitis is the long word) in cows and it is often due to springy lengths of wire from tyres used on silage clamps.

Please check your tyres if you use this method of holding down the sheet and ensure there are no perforated areas allowing short corroded wires to enter silage.

24/7

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE FOR ALL SPECIES OF ANIMALS

FARM NEWS EDITOR...

I have written a monthly newsletter in various forms for about 28 years now so you were no doubt all fed up with my nagging, cajoling and 'newsy' agricultural musings a long time ago!

However, I have enjoyed writing them though I am appalling at meeting deadlines! It is nice to realise during an on-farm conversation that some of you out there are 'reading before binning'.

I shall now be handing over this task to Chris Price who might employ a 'guest editor' from our farm team occasionally.

Rupert Hibberd

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SUNDAY 19TH JULY...



OPEN DAY 2009

DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL CHARITY OPEN DAY
VISIT US BETWEEN 1.00pm - 4.30pm

- See 'Behind the Scenes' of our Hospital
- **FREE** Fun and education for all the family
- Face Painting, Pony Rides and Kids' Fairground
- Charity Stalls

COME ALONG... EVERYONE WELCOME!
SEE WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOUR PET IN HEALTHCARE

www.drovevets.co.uk



DROVE HOSPITAL
252 Craft Road, Swindon,
Wiltshire SN1 4RW
Tel: (01793) 522483
mail@drovevets.co.uk



DROVE FARM OFFICE
CALL: (01793) 501499

24hr Emergency: (01793) 522483

