

Black Sheep Farm Health

December 2021 Newsletter



The Field Report

Writing this in the aftermath of Storm Arwen, some things are clearer than ever. First: grit is a fundamental quality of farming folk. Second: sometimes the 'worst case scenario' actually happens. Third: if you wait for help from our representatives in Westminster, you'll be waiting some time! As ever we appreciate your support over the last year, and look forward to facing the next one with you.

Medicines Course: 14th December

18:00 – 20:00, Tuesday 14th December

£40 ex.VAT. RSVP on 01669 838 288 or info@bsfh.co.uk

Refreshments and certificate included. Lively discussion guaranteed!

Due to continued demand we are putting on another Mastering Medicines course.

These courses are a great opportunity to learn how to get the best out of the medicines you are using. This not only improves the health and welfare of your livestock but maximises return on investment when using preventative products such as vaccines.

They also cover farm assurance - medicines training has been a recommendation for Red Tractor (FABBL) assured beef and sheep producers since June 2018, **and since November 2021, they have been a requirement for Red Tractor assured beef and lamb producers.** Likewise, many processors now expect medicines training for animal welfare and meat quality reasons. The course is held in an informal small group setting with experienced farmers, smallholders and complete novices alike. 98% of attendees in 2018/19/21 said the course was 'Definitely' or 'Mostly' useful for working on their farm.



Please help keep us safe!



As a small tight-knit team the unplanned absence of staff can put us under pressure, which in turn could compromise our service.

We are asking that:

- Clients do not enter the premises unless absolutely necessary.
- If they do, they should wear a mask and maintain a social distance.

Poultry back into lockdown: Avian Flu Restrictions

Due to numerous cases of avian influenza across the country, a nationwide 'Avian Influenza Protection Zone', or AIPZ, is no in place. **All poultry keepers in England** must:

- house or net all poultry and captive birds to keep them separate from wild birds
- cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
- reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use effective vermin control
- thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a continuous basis
- keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
- minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds



Festive Opening Hours

Don't forget to think about what drugs you might need over the festive period so we can be as organised as possible for you!

20th December - 23rd December (inclusive): Normal opening hours

24th December: 8:30am - 4:00pm

25th December - 28th December (inclusive): Emergency service only

29th December & 30th December: Normal opening hours

31st December: 8:30am - 4:00pm

1st January & 2nd January: Emergency service only

3rd January onwards: Back to normal



Red Tractor changes now in effect

On the 1st November 2021, Red Tractor Farm Assured changes came into effect. Some are new standards; some are recommendations, and some were recommendations that are now full standards.

Health plans

- A written Health Plan must be in place that is signed, dated, and reviewed annually by your own vet.
- A written annual livestock health and performance review must be undertaken by your vet which includes medicine usage data, especially antibiotic usage which is collated and assessed by your own vet.

BVD eradication on farm

- BVD eradication must be carried out on farm, and this must be detailed in the health plan. This will include a combination of vaccination, annual check testing and testing of any incoming stock if they aren't coming from BVD accredited free farms.

Medicines use training

- At least one person, who is responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training and holds a certificate of competence e.g. Kaz's 'Mastering Medicines' course".

Use of pain relief and local anaesthetic for routine husbandry procedures

- Changes to use of pain relief (e.g. Metacam™) and local anaesthetics (e.g. Adrenacaine™) for castration, docking, disbudding and dehorning:

Lambs

Castration

- Lambs can be castrated using rubber rings under 1 week of age only.
- They can be burdizzoed up to 3 months of age without anaesthetic or analgesia.

Tail Docking

- Lambs can be tail docked using rubber rings under 1 week of age.
- Lambs can be docked up to 2 months of age but must be with local anaesthetic.

Any procedure carried out on lambs / sheep older than 3 months must be carried out by a vet (other than bloodless trimming of horn ends).

Calves

Castration

- Calves can be castrated under 1 week of age using rubber rings
- They can be burdizzoed up to 2 months of age but must receive pain relief.

Disbudding / dehorning

- Calves can be dehorned with dehorning paste e.g. Hornex paste™ up to 1 week old but should receive pain relief.
- Calves can be disbudded / dehorned up to 5 months of age but must receive both pain relief and local anaesthetic.
- Any castration over 2 months of age or dehorning over 5 months of age must be carried out by a vet.

The complete revised standards can be found here: https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/RTStandardsV5_BeefLamb_V2.pdf