

# December 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Christmas Opening Hours

Please make sure you are aware of our Christmas office opening hours:

**Tuesday 23rd December– 8:30am - 5:30pm**

**Wednesday 24th December– 8:30am - 4pm**

**Thursday 25th December– Closed**

**Friday 26th December– Closed**

**Wednesday 31st December– 8:30am - 4pm**

**Thursday 1st January– Closed**

As always, while the office is closed, vets will remain on call for emergencies.



## Calving Course

**- TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY 2026 -**

£50 + VAT

Lunch, refreshments and course notes provided

### The course will cover:

- Management of the cow before calving
- Common problems pre-calving
- 'Normal' calving
- When & how to intervene
- Decision making while calving
- When to phone the vet
- The weird & the wonderful
- Care of the cow post calving
- Care of the calf
- Common problems post calving
- Practical; calving simulator, using ropes and calving aids, tubing calves

**To book your place, please email [emili.ch@bsfh.co.uk](mailto:emili.ch@bsfh.co.uk) or call the practice on 01669 838288**

## Are your farm dogs protected against leptospirosis?

Leptospirosis, often referred to as leptos, is a serious and potentially fatal disease in dogs.

Like other farm animals, dogs are infected by contact with infected animal urine.

Working dogs have contact with livestock, waterways and rodents, and so are at higher risk of leptospirosis than most pet dogs.

Vaccination provides protection against leptospirosis. It is important that after an initial vaccine course of two doses 4 weeks apart, that dogs receive annual vaccinations to booster their immunity against leptospirosis.



Please contact the practice to arrange vaccination for your farm dogs.

## A Little Bit of Housekeeping

For those that still receive invoices by post, please let Hazel know if you'd prefer to receive them by email.

We are also able to offer direct debits. Please let Hazel know if you'd like to set up a direct debit with the practice.

If there are cool bags collecting dust on farm, please could they be returned to the practice—thank you!

## Kaz's Myostatin Study: The Round Up

Many of you have contributed through bull samples and/or survey data to Kaz's BCVA-funded research project. While there are a few loose ends to tie up, he presented the findings so far in October at the 2025 BCVA Congress. Firstly, thank you for your co-operation and interest. It made sample collection so much easier and generated a lot of useful discussions.



### The headlines:

- Myostatin mutations are correlated not just with increased muscle mass and calving difficulty, but also less obvious traits: reduced voluntary feed intake, reduced internal organ size, reduced milk production, increased sensitivity to mange, delayed puberty and reduced meat eating quality.
- We collected data on approximately 85% of bulls in the practice.
- Nearly half (48%) of bulls screened already had a published status online.
- Of the bulls which had a status determined, ~10% had one myostatin mutation, and ~10% had two myostatin mutations.
- Of the mutants, two mutations were dominant: F94L and nt821. These two covered >90% of the mutations identified.
- Despite >90% of suckler clients having heard of myostatin, only ~60% used it as a factor in purchasing or breeding decisions.
- For those who did use myostatin as a factor in breeding and purchasing decisions, zero used it positively, ~80% used it negatively (i.e. avoided it) while 20% were ambivalent/mixed.
- We found myostatin mutations in breeds you would expect – but also plenty in 'traditional' native breeds, even a riggit Galloway!
- Aberdeen Angus was the dominant bull breed (~47.5%), with distant also-rans such as Limousin (11%), Charolais (7.5%), Hereford (5%) and Luining (5%).
- Nearly one in eight of all stock bulls in the practice originate from one herd!

We already have one client screening replacement heifers for myostatin, and plenty more checking stock bull status. There is plenty of nuance to delve into if you are keen; if so, chat to Kaz!



## Please join us for Christmas Drinks



**\*\*\*FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER @ THE TURKS HEAD\*\*\***

We will be headed to the Turks Head in Rothbury from 7pm on Friday 12th December for a few Christmas drinks. First drinks on us. Hope to see you there!

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