



**Black Sheep Farm Health** Dedicated farm vets

# CPD for Vets: Setting up a Fixed Time Artificial Insemination service for beef clients

***Calving too many cows? Scanning too many empty ones? Clients losing too many calves to preventable causes such as joint ill or dystocia? Vets run off their feet in the spring, then quiet in the summer?***



Fixed Time Artificial Insemination (FTAI) is an increasingly important tool for suckler farmers in the United Kingdom. Vets in practice typically organise synchronisation, but the service visit and choice of protocol is more often actioned by the semen supplier or the farmer themselves. This means the process can become disjointed, and vets are not automatically brought into the conversation when important decisions are made that affect success rate, as well as dystocia, calf survival and fertility.

Consequently, several practices have brought the service visit in-house by offering a FTAI package. Having pioneered our own FTAI service at Black Sheep Farm Health, since its establishment in 2018 45% of our breeding beef clients have used it in some capacity.

For the benefits it offers clients and vets, we believe there is great scope for more practices to offer a service like this. In that vein, we are offering CPD on **how to set up a FTAI service for farm practices**.

The learning objectives include:

- **What does FTAI offer suckler farmers?** Breeders, commercial cattle producers and smallholders
- **Optimising FTAI success:** different protocols, nutrition, management, female selection et cetera
- **The BSFH experience so far:** successes and failures, real life case studies, insights from abroad
- **Taking the first steps:** sourcing and maintaining equipment, getting trained in artificial insemination
- **The business case:** initial outlay, pricing, and marketing the service.

**19th September 2024, Black Sheep Farm Health (NE65 7RZ, Northumberland). Book via [info@bsfh.co.uk](mailto:info@bsfh.co.uk), or 01669 838 288.**

**First vet from practice: £500, or £400 early bird\***

**Additional vets from same practice: £250, or £200 early bird\***

**Students: £75**

**\*booked before 1st August. Cost covers course notes and food.**



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## About the trainers



### Jack Sheldrake BVetMed

Growing up on a mixed farm in Norfolk, Jack graduated from RVC in 2016, later co-founding BSFH with Jenny in 2018.

Having seen the improvements on the family farm from using artificial insemination, Jack developed a practice sync-and-AI protocol from scratch. Our chosen protocol uses only three handlings rather than the typical four or five. 45% of BSFH clients have used our AI services, most of which are also synchronised.

Outside of work, Jack and his wife run a shedding sheep flock alongside a growing herd of Stabilisers.

### Kaz Strycharczyk MA VetMB

Since graduating in 2017, Kaz has worked mainly in Northumberland, although his career so far has included an early stint in Dumfries and Galloway plus a year-long sabbatical in New Zealand.

Kaz might really enjoy calving cows, but is also a big believer that cattle practice is at its best when it is preventing disasters, not fixing them.

He also decided recently to put his money where is mouth is, starting a (very) small herd of suckler cows.



### Joe Henry BVM&S CertSHP

Since graduating from Glasgow in 1998, Joe has worked in Northumberland and in New Zealand, primarily with suckler and sheep clients. He has extensive experience in training other vets, including having won the Tuckey prize for best presentation by a practitioner at BCVA congress and XLVets FarmSkills Trainer of the Year. This year, he is president of the Sheep Veterinary Society.

Joe frequently presents to organisations such as QMS, NBA, AHDB and others. With Jenny he provides consultancy services to BSFH clients in Eastern Europe. In 2018 he undertook a study tour to large cow-calf operations in the western USA.

Joe also runs a farm with his wife Rachel, including a Luing-based herd of about 100 head. He also provides the veterinary input to the East Northumberland Farmer's Club benchmarking group.

