

February 2026

NEWSLETTER



Lambing Course

Theory in the morning, followed by a practical lambing skills session in the afternoon.

Friday 13th March 2026, 10am-4pm

Netherwitton Village Hall, NE61 4NU, with practical on a nearby farm.

Lunch, refreshments and course notes provided.

£50 plus VAT

To book a place, or for more information, please email emili.ch@bsfh.co.uk or call the practice on 01669 838288.

Johne's Hygiene at Calving

It may come as no surprise that **calves born to Johne's positive cows are significantly more likely to test positive later in life for Johne's disease than those born to Johne's negative cows.**

Moreover, a study has demonstrated that calves born to Johne's negative cows are at significantly higher risk of Johne's disease if they spent more than 7 hours in a dirty calving area.

This is a pertinent reminder of the importance of good hygiene in the calving shed, as well as the importance of calving Johne's positive cows away from the rest of the herd.

Lambing & Calving List: Get Your Orders In!

Enclosed with this month's newsletter are spring order forms.

Ordering ahead of time ensures Hazel and Donna can have your order ready in plenty of time for lambing and calving, and saves you time when collecting orders!

AHWP: Increased Payments

From 22nd January, Animal Health & Welfare Pathway payments have **increased**:

Species	Animal health and welfare review		Endemic disease follow-up	
	Current	New	Current	New
Pigs	£557	£648	£923	£1,087
Sheep	£436	£574	£639	£658
Beef Cattle	£552	£647	£837	£954
Dairy Cattle	£372	£447	£1,714	£1,844
Biosecurity (All Cattle)	-	-	£215	£258

This funding is only available until June 2027. Funding can be claimed on multiple herds and flocks. Please get in touch regarding pathway!

Caution when feeding farm dogs?

Many farm dogs will receive some raw meat in their diets; it can be a really beneficial way to supplement their diet with high quality protein and fat, and lower the cost of feeding farm dogs.

Working dogs are a key part of the farm team and injury or illness in farm dogs can cause problems, especially at busy times of year. Just like livestock, diet is important for performance in working dogs too. **Research has demonstrated that working dogs fed diets that are higher in protein, particularly good quality protein, are less likely to suffer from injury and will recover faster from injury.** Supplementing commercial working dog foods with raw meat is a way of providing additional protein in a cost-effective manner.

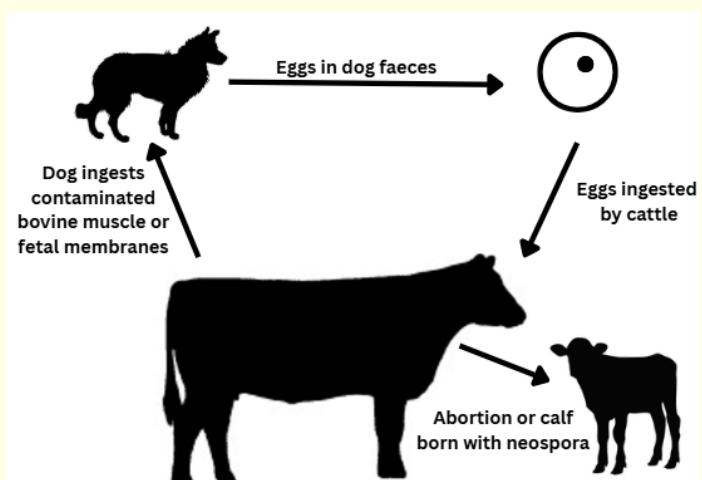
However, it is important to be aware of some of the risks associated with raw feeding farm dogs, and how to mitigate those risks.

Neospora

Infection in cows usually results in abortion during the second half of the pregnancy. Neospora can cause repeat abortions in successive pregnancies; infected cattle are 20x more likely to abort between 90 and 270d of pregnancy. Neospora is very effectively transmitted from an infected cow to its calf while in utero.

In order to prevent neospora:

- Ensure feedstuffs, hay, bedding, and water are kept free of faecal contamination by dogs.
- Ensure prompt disposal of placentas, fetuses and still born calves.
Don't feed cleansings or stillborn calves to farm dogs.
- Do not retain neospora positive cows or heifers for breeding. Consider screening incoming heifers for neospora if it has been a problem.



Cysticercus ovis (Sheep Measles)

Sheep measles refers to the cystic (larval) stage of a dog or fox tapeworm. When dogs are fed fresh offal or scavenge infected sheep carcasses containing cysts, they become infected without ill effect. Dogs then contaminate the pasture with their faeces. Sheep are re-infected as they graze. We do not see clinical signs in sheep as a result of the dog tapeworm, but it can result in carcass rejection and therefore financial losses.

In order to prevent these carcass rejections:

- Regularly worm farm dogs with a product active against tapeworm
- **Freeze raw offal or meat for >10days before feeding to dogs**
- Dispose of dead sheep rapidly and effectively to prevent scavenging

