

# Black Sheep Farm Health

January 2020 Newsletter



## The Field Report

We've hit the ground running in 2020, as it seems most of you have resolved to tie up any loose ends of 2019 with some urgency!

The start of the year is another convenient time of the year to update health plans, with early nights and sheep/cattle scanning results to work with. Don't hesitate to get in touch to organise a session - we find for maximum effectiveness and sanity, these sessions are best done little and often...

See below for a further introduction to our maternity locum Sedona, information on BVD check-testing and our latest cool bag amnesty.

## Say hello to Sedona

Don't forget we have Sedona McNally on the team from January to March, while Jenny is away.

Sedona graduated from The Royal Veterinary College in 2016. Sedona has worked in Norfolk and Cumbria before coming to BSFH. In her spare time Sedona can be found out and about in the countryside, on foot or by kayak.



## BVD Check Testing

Over the past twelve months we have had great uptake of the BVD 'Stamp It Out' funding. It will be important to keep this momentum going to stay ahead of future legislative changes.

Most of our clients routinely monitor for BVD anyway—almost all with the annual 'check test' of 5 9-18month old (or 10 6-8month old) calves. Given this age range now is a sensible time of the year to get the spring calf crop of 2019 checked.

This check test is a key part of control - it alerts you to any incursion of BVD in your herd. If your herd is free of BVD, this is especially important as the impact will be huge where cattle are naïve. Incoming or neighbouring cattle are a major source of infection BUT other possible sources include:

- Sheep
- Vehicles and machinery including muck spreaders.
- Equipment including dirty waterproofs.

Consequently every herd in the UK is at risk of exposure to BVD, with an associated financial risk. The most recent analysis puts the cost of outbreaks in naïve herds at £28.50 - >£2000 (the average cost of all outbreaks was £46.50). Together, annual BVD testing and vaccination are essential to eliminate, and then remain clear of, the disease. To discuss BVD or to book a check test, don't hesitate to get in touch on 01669 838 288.

## Cool Bag Amnesty 2020

We are sure you are all relishing your spring clean for 2020! We also suspect there may be a few practice cool bags hanging around—if these could find their way back to the front desk it would be much appreciated.

As a token of our appreciation, each cool bag handed back can be exchanged for a chocolate bar—just ask Hazel or Carole!

