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### Dates for the Diary:

#### Nantwich Show Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July

We look forward to seeing you at our stand, the usual refreshments will be on offer. I hope they don't run out before I get there, as happened last year!



Everyone welcome

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
Bovilis BVD is an  
INTRAMUSCULAR (I/M)  
vaccine **NOT**  
Subcutaneous (S/C)

We don't seem to be having a very good summer!

Grass growth and quality seems to be still poor and struggling. Herds generally have had falling milk proteins, indicating insufficient energy intake, largely from relying too much on grass. The need for buffer feeding is well and truly with us. Fertility, not yield, is the first to suffer.



With warmer weather forecast we may still get a flush of grass, which may give conditions leading to **grass staggers**. If grass is scouring the cows, continue magnesium supplementation for at least near-to heifers and high yielders. Magnesium Chloride in the water is probably the most effective supplement on a daily basis.

Heifers (and cows) that have not been vaccinated with 'Huskvac' may be susceptible to **lungworm**. We have seen some already – much earlier than usual. Look out for the dry cough, usually with a protruding tongue.

We've had a few farms with outbreaks of **blackleg** in recent weeks- causing acutely stiff/lame animals, or sudden death. Those of you that have blackleg problems and vaccinate, be aware of the existence of 'false blackleg'. This is caused by the same family of bacteria, but is not covered with the basic blackleg vaccine. Bravoxin 10 vaccine covers all possibilities and would be the preferred vaccine.



The Livestock Northwest RDP is still providing grants in Cheshire for anything above standard farming practice, and connected to animal health and welfare. We have obtained grants for 40 farms in Cheshire so far. The administration is currently changing, so there may be differences in availability of grants from March 2012. More information is available from [www.livestocknw.co.uk](http://www.livestocknw.co.uk), or contact Tim Briggs on 07831 305749 or via the practice.

*Please note that this **does not** include Staffordshire & Shropshire, they have a similar scheme via Lantra (& Neil Howie). This has current difficulties but should revive next year.*

Following the wedding of John and Angie Manson last month, we have the wedding of Rob George and Helen Tomlinson in early July. We wish both couples all the best for their future happiness.



Tim Briggs