



nantwich | farm vets

Farm Animal Newsletter

November 2011

Crewe Road End

Nantwich

Cheshire

CW5 5SF

01270 610349

www.nantwichvetgroup.co.uk

Tim Briggs	07831305749
Colin Baxter	07860605079
Neil Howie	07831810035
Dave Shaw	07836335185
Rob George	07773384450
John Manson	07813690860
John Yarwood	07814879109
Huw Lloyd	07717780605
Stuart Russell	07770448179
Peter Duncalfe	07717780604
Laura Pennington	07800647608
Steve Crowe	07891843694
Sara Pedersen	07891843573



Our most recent farm academy meeting on cattle lameness was very successful. The next in the line of meetings are "THE YOUNG CALF" on 30th November (please note revised date from 23rd November) and "HEIFER REARING" on 14th December. Please book now if you are interested in attending.



Christmas & New Year Office
Opening Hours

Sat Dec 24 – 8:30am – 1:30pm
 Sun Dec 25 – CLOSED
 Mon Dec 26 – CLOSED
 Tue Dec 27 – 9:30am – 12:30pm
 Wed Dec 28 – NORMAL
 Thu Dec 29 – NORMAL
 Fri Dec 30 – NORMAL
 Sat Dec 31 – 8:30am – 1:30pm
 Sun Jan 1 – CLOSED
 Mon Jan 2 – 9:30am – 12:30pm

IBR

This disease caused major problems last winter with huge losses in production and lots of sick cows. Signs can be variable from herd to herd, varying from fresh calved cows with high temperatures to the whole herd showing signs of runny eyes and nose and loss of production. IBR is a herpes virus (similar to the virus which causes cold sores in humans); this is an unusual type of virus as cows tend not to gain a good immunity to it. As such they can have the virus without showing any signs until a time of stress such as calving or housing. Vaccination does tend to work very well but does not last a full 12 months. Speak to your vet about the most suitable control measure on your farm.

CALF PNEUMONIA

As the winter arrives more problems will arise with calf pneumonia. Remember prevention is better than cure. Good ventilation, dry bedding, not mixing different age groups together and low stocking densities are the most important things. Often practicalities on farms do not allow for the perfect housing conditions for youngstock, so in these circumstances vaccination is worth considering. There are numerous different vaccines available now from intra-nasal ones which can be done very early in life to multi-strain ones to cover against a larger range of viruses.



FREEMARTIN TEST

Some of you may be aware there is now a test available for heifers twinned to a bull to find out if they are a freemartin or not. It requires both a blood sample and hair sample from the heifer calf. It does take about a month for the results to come back but if you are considering keeping the animal it may well be worth thinking about. The above test should be considered if a vet examination is inconclusive.

BULL TESTING

Don't forget we are now able to test bulls to check their fertility status. This is done by restraining the animal, placing an electrical probe into their rectum and passing a small current through it which makes them ejaculate. The semen collected can then be tested under a microscope. This is a good tool for testing potential problem animals on the farm or testing any new bulls at purchase. However, the test only gives information on the day of testing (ie. he may be working now but was not before) and does not guarantee his future fertility.

You will receive by post in the coming weeks a 'client information sheet', we would appreciate you taking the time to complete and return in the pre-paid envelope provided. It will enable us to update all relevant contact details as well as herd information including vaccination status.

John Yarwood