**Herd disease vaccinations**

Recently we have had several herds with disease breakdowns which have ultimately been traced back to either miss-timed use of vaccines or a complete lapse in herd vaccination. The subsequent disease outbreaks can prove expensive and a lot more hassle than a simple vaccine booster. We do our best to remind you when your herd boosters are due so please take note of the postcard reminders that come through. Below are some guidelines to help ensure the common herd vaccinations are used as designed.

**Leptospirosis**
- Vaccinate all animals intended for breeding over the age of 4 weeks.
- The initial course consists of two injections 4-6 weeks apart.
- Vaccination provides 12 months cover so annual boosters are required.
- In coming cattle should commence an initial course on arrival.

**BVD**
- Vaccinate all animals intended for breeding over the age of 14 weeks.
- Ensure the initial course is completed at least one week before the start of the breeding period.
- The initial course consists of two injections 3-4 weeks apart.
- Vaccination provides 12 months cover so annual boosters are required.
- Monitor the herd for signs of persistently infected animals (PIs).
- In coming cattle should commence an initial course on arrival.

**IBR**
- Vaccinate all cattle over 12 weeks old, speak to your vet if you have respiratory disease issues in younger animals.
- Decide with your vet if you should use the live or inactivated vaccines.
- Live vaccine requires an initial dose followed by 6 monthly boosters.
- Inactivated vaccine requires an initial course of two doses 3-5 weeks apart followed by 6 monthly boosters.
- Incoming cattle should follow the directions for initial courses above. Remember to store vaccines in the fridge until you are ready to use them! Speak to your regular vet if you are unsure about your herd status.

**Courses for farmers**

- **DIY AI HELD AT MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE LANCASHIRE FEB 10-12**
  A 3 day practical hands on course with small numbers for excellent individual training. The course is run on the college campus farm with excellent facilities creating a superb learning environment.

- **SAFE USE OF MEDICINES ON FARM**
  A useful one day workshop explaining the correct use and storage of drugs, how to correctly administer them and when. **To be held in Northwich on Feb 17th**

- **WHITCHURCH DIY AI JAN 20-22**
  held on a large dairy unit with Lantra approved instructors to be held again in Northwich **March 10-12**

- **LAMING WORKSHOP**
  covering all aspects of the Lambing season, trouble shooting the problems that may arise at this time of year along with useful tips on condition scoring. Practical demonstrations using a lambing simulator. **To be held in Northwich Jan 30th**

- **HERDSMAN FOOT TRIMMING 3 DAY COMPREHENSIVE COURSE**
  covering lameness issues, foot disease and routine trimming taught via the 5 step Dutch method. Along with the correct way to attach blocks and bandages. How to use the equipment correctly and safely. **To be held in Welshpool March 3-5 and Lancashire March 17-19 with RDPE funding reducing the cost to just £195 ex vat as opposed to £465 ex vat with a valid holding number.**

- **SAFE USE OF AN ELECTRIC FOOT GRINDER**
  2 day course using dead cattles feet in clamps on day one, to assess when and when not to use the grinder, moving on to **live cattle on day 2. A must have course for experienced herdsmen. To be held in Middlewich on Feb 24-25**

- **CALF REARING WORKSHOP**
  Covering disbudding, castration, housing and nutrition. **To be held in Goostrey March 7th**

- **REFRESHER WEEK MARCH 24-28 AT VARIOUS FARMS IN AND AROUND CHESHIRE**
  1 day refreshers in DIY AI to ensure that your confidence and techniques are still good before you start serving. **Private on farm courses available on a 1-1 basis if required.**

- **TRIAGE FOR FARMERS**
  a new course designed to help farmers recognise and overcome the day to day non vet emergencies that happen on farm. How to deal with them correctly and more importantly how to recognise when and when not to call your vet out. **To be held in Goostrey April 22-25**

- **PROFESSIONAL FOOT TRIMMING COURSE**
  With world renowned Dutch trainer Pieter Kloosterman, aimed at experienced herdsmen wanting to take it to the next level. **To be held in Middlewich April 28-May 1**

For more information on the above courses and costs please call Embryonics on 01565 723036

**Brand Management**

Knowing which cow is which is a fairly fundamental part of every-day life on farm. Of course all your cattle will have individual ear tags including at least one which is ‘distance readable’ as long as the distance isn’t too great, the cow stands still, your glasses are clean and the tag isn’t obscured by hairy ears or muck! Freeze branding is a commonly used additional means of giving cows an easy to read management identification number. The Willows freeze branding service is now available on your farm to enable you to keep your brands up to date! So now you can get those heifers branded before you start AI’ing and brand those replacement cows that just arrived from market. You can stop identity theft in your herd with some timely brand management. Call us on 01565 723036 for more information and to book your visit.
Happy New Year!

Our farm team is available to help maintain and improve the health of your stock in 2014. We offer a full range of veterinary services including:

- Examination, diagnosis and treatment of sick animals.
- Fertility examinations using ultrasound scanners, fertility hormone treatments and whole herd fertility analysis and breeding planning catering for calving blocks from 9 weeks to 12 months!
- Bull fertility testing including semen collection, analysis and reporting.
- Mastitis and udder-health investigations, problem identification and advice on treatments, milking routines, parlour chemicals, dry cow therapy selection and analysis of milk records. DairyCo mastitis plans also available.
- Lameness - from individual lame cows to whole herd foot care investigations and planning. Including Willows Hoofcare, DairyCo healthy feet plans, advice on foot bathing, mobility scoring and training in foot trimming.
- Herd and flock health planning, compliant with Red Tractor requirements, also animal health and welfare plans as part of the Livestock North West program.
- 24 hour emergency cover, an experienced farm vet available when you need one most!
- Calf health investigations and advice on housing, colostrum management, ventilation and calf husbandry training courses.
- Parasite control plans for sheep, beef, young stock and dairy cows so you get effective and efficient parasite control.
- Data analysis and herd performance reporting on nutrition, fertility and health issues using the Interherd+ software program.
- Investigation of nutritional issues on farm and advice on all aspects of nutrition.
- TB testing for DEFRA and private pre and post movement testing.
- In-house laboratory facilities for same day results on blood tests and faecal egg counts, also mastitis cultures and sensitivity and calf scour sample analysis.
- Dedicated farm support staff to answer your calls, help plan visits and TB tests, and administer drug orders.
- Full Embryo Transfer team and facilities including lab for export of embryos.
- Regular client meetings and training events to encourage best practice and further knowledge transfer.
- Anything else you want to throw at us!! We have a strong team with a wealth of experience in livestock production and are willing to help.

Wall planners and herdsman’s diaries

We still have a supply of wall planners and herdsman diaries available which we would like you to make use of. These are available free of charge all you have to do is ask, we can even get them delivered to you!