Look out for some familiar faces on BBC’s Countryfile later this month.

Owen Tunney and Paravet Mark Boland from Embryonics spent a day filming with the Countryfile team at Manor Farm in Leicestershire. The farm, owned by the Livesey family, are a regular client of Embryonics and have a show winning herd of British Hereford cattle.

It was at Ashby Show that Manor Farm Stock manager Gareth McManus was approached by presenter Adam Henson after receiving the prize for Champion Hereford. After explaining that the cow was a result of an embryo transfer procedure, Adam expressed an interest in covering the procedure for the Countryfile programme.

On the day Mark and Owen flushed four cows and produced 26 embryos. Nine embryos were implanted into recipient heifers and 17 were frozen for use at a later date.

The filming took place over a full day and the results will be edited down into a 6 minute slot which is to be broadcast on Sunday December 14th.

Rumour has it that Owen and Mark have already bought their ‘As seen on TV’ badges!!!
Beeston Success . . .

Beeston Animal Health Limited are celebrating after another string of award successes at the annual ‘Over The Counter’ awards ceremony, held at London’s Café Royal. The team at Beeston Animal Health took the prestigious Animal Health Distributors Association Award for Excellence.

This award recognised the cohesive approach Beeston Animal Health has brought to animal health advice using a combination of Vets and SQPs.

Store Manager Mark Pass won the coveted SQP of the Year award 2014, which follows on from the Farm SQP of the Year title he won in 2013.

In addition Becky White won the Equine SQP Trainee of the Year title at the 2014 AHDA conference.

Mark Proctor launched the business in 1994, “We sold one bag of dog food on the first day and have come on a bit since then! Much of the credit goes to the very long standing staff members, like Karen Thompson and Christine Jennings plus the SQP’s and support staff who all make up the Beeston team.”

The Excellence award relates to the close working relationship that has developed between the Willows Farm Vet team and SQP’s like Mark Pass, Helen Reade and Angela Walker. Herd or flock health plans need to incorporate responsible parasite treatment and take account of ever present drug resistance issues so being able to call upon the expertise of the Beeston SQP team is a huge advantage.

Gethin Edwards and Mark have just launched a joint Willows/Beeston venture, “The Sheep Club” to further these aims and replicate the success that has been achieved on the cattle side.

If you are interested in a joined up parasite control please contact Beeston Animal Health on 01829 261361 remember best practice is the cheapest option!

TB Testing

Some of you will be aware that earlier this year DEFRA put the business of TB Testing of cattle out to tender. England has been split into 5 regions and Wales into 2 regions.

As part of the XLVets Group of practices, The Willows helped form a company (XLFarmcare North) to tender for all the TB work in the North region (to include Cheshire). Our partner, Simon Jones, is a director of the new Company which will only administer DEFRA work through existing practices. Our XLVets colleagues have formed similar companies in the other regions. As part of the tender process we merged some of the administration of TB testing into the new Company which has meant that you may well receive letters stating that XLFarmcare North are responsible for doing your TB testing. Rest assured that until the results of the tender are known, Willows via XLFarmcare North are still responsible for your TB test and you should contact your usual practice office to arrange your test as necessary.

The tender results will be published on 2nd January 2015. Whatever the result, farmers will have the right to request their practice to do their TB Test as long as the practice is on the approved list of suppliers. You will be informed in the New Year as to who is administering your testing. If you have any queries on this matter please do not hesitate to call Simon Jones on 07974 702 449.