Willows hoof care was launched at the end of last year when Steve Austin joined the farm team to provide additional services for cattle farmers. Steve has been fully trained on a professional foot trimming course to give him plenty of technical backup to add to the practical experience he has from years of trimming as a herd manager. In addition Steve is trained in mobility scoring which is used to both identify animals for treatment and to monitor herd progress.

The results of each foot trim and mobility score are recorded electronically by Steve in a toughened computer for use on farm. This enables us to analyse herd lameness records which is one of the main ways in identifying where the big risk factors for lameness are on your farm. To date there have been several examples where lameness was primarily due to one particular risk factor on farm which was easily rectified without significant investment.

Steve is equipped with an impressive hydraulic crush which is suitable for both dairy and beef cows and can even accommodate bulls. Cow flow into the crush is excellent and the restraint provided is also excellent for both the animals and Steve. Why not give Steve a call on 07846 205063 and see how he can help you and your cows!

Hoof Care

Lameness continues to be a significant issue for both beef and dairy farms leading to significant costs from lost production, lost body condition, poor fertility, increased culling and increased treatment requirements. It is also a significant welfare problem and is very visible to members of the public. Obviously to investigate lameness fully on any farm requires a significant amount of time and experience. Dairy farmers may be familiar with the DairyCo healthy feet program which is available through the Willows Vet Group. This is a comprehensive look at lameness on your farm and a whole farm team approach is used to finding and implementing improvements. Speak to your regular vet or give Jonny a ring for more details about the healthy feet program.

One of the key changes made in recent years on many dairy farms has been the role of mobility scoring. This has shifted the focus for trimming away from obvious and chronically lame cows and onto cows with lesions which are in the earlier stages of development. As with most other diseases prevention is better than cure but also early intervention and treatment is much more successful and less expensive than delayed treatment.

Chronically lame cows need veterinary attention and usually either a digit amputation or a career change (usually to fast food) as they are not efficient and their welfare is always compromised. Speak to your vet if you are interested in learning more about mobility scoring for yourself or if you would like to have your herd mobility scored and the results explained.

Foot bathing is carried out on most dairy and many beef farms and there is an amazing variety of footbaths, frequencies and products being used on your neighbours farms! This is a classic example of where a lot of effort and investment goes in but often is misguided and ends up not being as effective as it ought to be. It doesn’t need to be like that! Every farm can have an effective foot bathing plan in place to help control infectious causes of lameness and in particular Digital Dermatitis. Again speak to your vet and get a plan together which is both practical and effective.
Invite you to an
EVENING MEETING

Less pain
More gain

A meeting to discuss how the use of NSDAID’s can help improve Animal Welfare and Productivity in your diary herd

Supper provided (Pie and Chips) plus a Pint

Thursday 1st August
7.00pm for 7.30pm

Venue:
The Hunters Lodge Hotel
Sydney Road, Crewe
Cheshire CW1 5LU

RSVP for catering numbers to Sally on 01606 723200 by 25th July please

Sponsored by:

Baby Bethan Rowlands

Congratulations to Em and his wife Vicky on the birth of Bethan Haf Rowlands. Bethan arrived on 29th May weighing in at just over 7lb and with a great lung capacity. If you find Em is being a bit grumpy please be understanding, he very fond of a good nights sleep!!

New vet joining the farm team

Gethin Edwards will join the farm vet team at the end of July. Gethin is from North Wales and is an experienced vet moving from a busy mixed practice where he mainly does farm work. He is currently enrolled in the DBR which is a post graduate qualification from the University of Liverpool where will gain deeper knowledge on all things pertaining to reproduction in cattle. He is also very experienced with sheep work, and that’s not just because he is Welsh! More on Gethin, including a photo so you know who has turned up to do your calving, next month. We are delighted to have such an experienced vet join the farm team and we are confident he will soon fit in to life at the Willows.