



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR OFFICE HOURS

We will be providing our usual emergency service over the festive period but please note the office will be closing at 3pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve so please collect any drugs before then.

Closed 24th December 3pm til 8:30am 29th December - emergency service only

Closed 31st December 3pm til 8:30am 2nd January - emergency service only

Open 2nd January 8:30am til 1pm - open as usual

Closed 2nd January 1pm til 8:30am 3rd January - emergency service only

Merry Christmas! It has been a strange and difficult year for all of us, but thanks to your continued cooperation and support we have still been able to offer you our services in the safest possible way.

This does unfortunately mean that the annual farmers Christmas party will not be going ahead. However, throughout December we will be running a few competitions and events on social media!

How would you like to get your hands on a Christmas hamper? All you have to do is 'Share' our post about the prize before the 18th December on Facebook or Twitter, and 'Like' or

Support Farmers

As farmers, I'm sure you would never question the importance of physical health: the flu last winter that made every job so much harder or the accident that set you back a few weeks. We know that these are a nuisance and that they cause problems on the farm.

The same is true of poor mental health. Feeling like you are dragging another weight around with you or that you are knotted by the anxiety of life or certain situations can be equally disruptive. Worries and stress are perfectly normal, but when they start to dominate your life and

'Follow' us at facebook.com/DalesideFarm and twitter.com/DalesideFarmVet.

As a small gift, we have included a Daleside Vets facemask in with this months newsletter. We would love to see your photos of you wearing your Daleside Vets facemask. Please send us your Daleside Vets facemask photos, either on Facebook or Twitter, or email them to charlotte@dalesidevets.co.uk then if you are happy for us to do so, we can put them up on social media! And last but not least as a bit of fun, we are running a 12 days of Christmas quiz, with a new question on Facebook and Twitter each day from the 12th December until the 24th December.

thought, that is the time to get help. The DPJ foundation offer a 24/7 helpline to talk to one of their volunteers who can be there to listen or can set you up with a counsellor or if talking on the phone just isn't your thing then drop them a text message and they can chat with you via text or call you back.

If you or someone you know would like support; please call 0800 587 4262 or text 07860 048799



Enhanced surveillance for Sheep scab in Wales

Sheep scab is a parasitic disease caused by the mite *Psoroptes ovis*. It is a major welfare concern due to the intense itching and distress it causes to the infected sheep flock. Throughout the winter, running up until the 31st of March 2021 the Welsh Government are offering free examinations of skin scrape samples showing suspected clinical signs of sheep scab. The scheme will aid diagnosis allowing us to appropriately treat and successfully control sheep scab. If you are suspecting sheep scab in your flock or want advice on what signs to look out for please contact the practice.



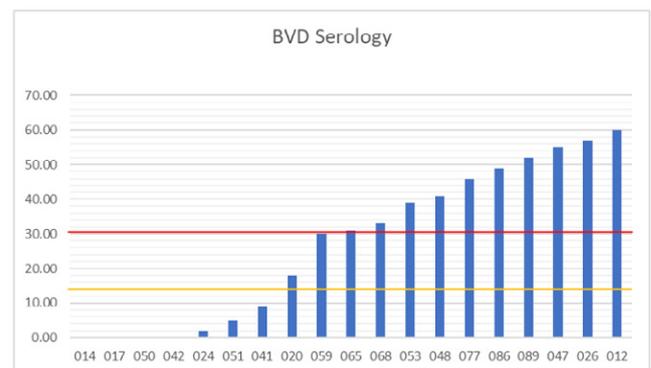
Bulk milk results

The bulk milk testing last month was hugely successful and thank you to everyone who returned a sample to us. We have been crunching the data and have created a few graphs to understand and visualise the numbers. Each graph shows the individual farm seen as the number along the bottom and then the level of antibodies along the left.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) causes immunosuppression and reproductive failures. The disease can reduce fertility, increase incidences of abortion and cause pneumonia in affected stock, creating drastic, long-lasting personal and financial effects on all affected client farms. Gwaredu BVD is a scheme to help us vets, to work alongside you to reduce the incidence of the disease, of which it has had success. However, as we look at the graph below, we can see that out of 19 unvaccinated farms, 11 farms had high levels of BVD antibodies in the milk (anything above 30%).

This level of antibodies suggest that the herd has a large number of recently exposed cows and/or there is a persistently infected (PI) cow in the herd. These PI cows will be infected for life and will not only be shedding the virus to others in close contact but any calf she produces will also become a PI cow. Vaccination plays a

vital part in reducing the prevalence of BVD. For more information on the funding available from Gwaredu BVD or to discuss a vaccination protocol for your farm, please get in touch.



Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis is a highly contagious respiratory disease. In addition to respiratory disease the virus causes conjunctivitis, abortions, and generalised systemic illness leading to a noticeable drop in milk yield. Once infected the virus is never fully removed and the cow becomes latently infected. At times of stress she will be shedding the virus, mainly from her nose and eyes.

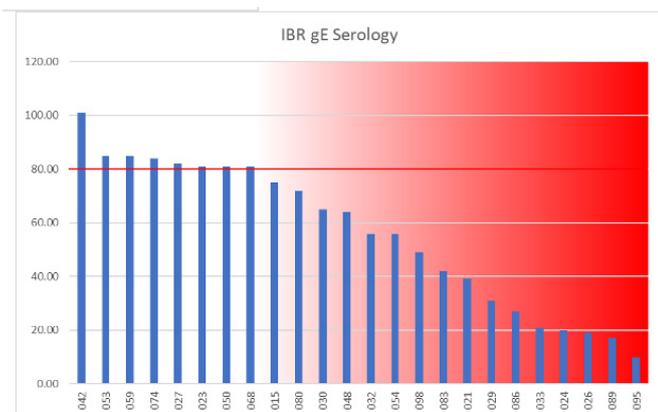
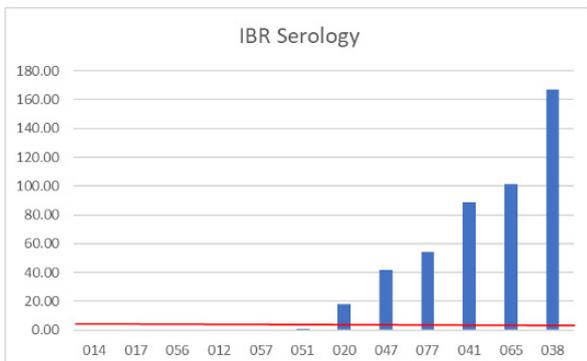
IBR has what we call a marker vaccine and so we can test for antibodies to the 'wild type' virus without the vaccine interfering with the results. The first graph shows the presence of antibodies against IBR in unvaccinated herds. 50% of the herds had what we consider to be high levels, indicating the infection is well established in the herd.



Vaccination is essential to control this disease. In infected herds, it is proven to reduce the amount of virus being shed by the latent carriers and therefore reduce the spread of the virus, as well as providing immune protection to other cows in the herd.

In the herds without exposure to the virus, vaccination will protect the herd from infection. In naive herds infection can lead to severe clinical signs and even death.

The second graph compares the antibody levels on the vaccinated herds. Reading this graph is a little trickier, any levels above the red line are achieving good control of the virus. As we move down the graph, this indicates more and more IBR virus antibody. Again, this cements the importance of vaccination in these herds. Vaccination will reduce the severity of the disease and will reduce the spread of the disease within your herd. The herds which are achieving above the target are doing so by regular vaccination alongside good biosecurity. Strict biosecurity is just as important as vaccinating.



Avian Influenza

Highly pathogenic strains of Avian influenza or commonly known as bird flu have been found in various sites across the UK and as a response the UK is now under an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.

What does this mean?

Essentially this requires bird keepers across the UK to maintain and strengthen their biosecurity measures, in order to prevent further outbreaks. We can play our part by following these simple steps.

- Ensure there is no direct contact with poultry or other captive birds on other neighbouring premises
- Limit the contact with wild birds
- Feed and water are kept indoors and birds are fed indoors or under a covered area which sufficiently discourages the landing of wild birds and thereby prevent contact by wild birds with their feed or water
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of all concrete walkways, paths and similar surfaces to which poultry or other captive birds or wild birds have access

Just like Coronavirus, the situation is constantly developing and so for any queries about what measures are in place we are more than happy to advise you or for more information visit the www.GOV.uk and search for Avian Influenza. As a reminder, if you are a keeper of 50 or more birds then you are required by law to register these birds





Change to Betamox LA Withdrawal Period

The withdrawal period for Betamox LA injection is changing as per the table below:

Species	Maximum Injection Site Volumes	Current Withhold Periods	New Withhold Periods
Cattle	15 ml	28 days	39 days
Sheep	4ml	19 days	29 days
Pigs	4ml	19 days	42 days
Milk - cattle	15ml	84hours	108 hours (4.5 days)

