

COVID Update

As restrictions are continuing to relax, we are very pleased to be able to welcome our farm clients back into the building from Monday the 5th July. Of course, we ask that you still phone in advance to place your order, sanitise your hands at the designated areas and respect the 2 meter and mask wearing regulations. Things have changed since we last had our clients in the building as we now have a designated farm entrance (towards the back of the building). Our farm office and dispensary are located upstairs, we ask that you ring the doorbell at the top of the stairs and wait to be seen by one of our staff members.

Cattle Pre-Breeding Checks

As the calving season for our spring block calvers is coming to an end, it is time to prepare for the next breeding season. After calving, cows undergo a physiological recovery before bulling resumes – this involves the recovery of the uterus after being stretched by the calf. This takes around 30-40 days for cows and slightly longer in heifers. However, assisted calvings, milk fever and uterine infections makes this period substantially longer, resulting in extended calving periods. We recommend a vet-check for any high risk cows, and cows that calved late in the previous block.

This involves a vaginal examination and ultrasound examination of the uterus and both ovaries. Depending on the outcome there are various options to promote the oestrus cycle and bring these cows bulling again.

Equally as important is the fertility of your bull. A bull MOT consists of the following:

1. General physical examination

This includes a general health check, locomotion check to rule out any problems that make the bull unfit to serve cows and a BCS evaluation. We aim for a BCS of 3 – ‘fit not fat!’

2. Genital examination

Scrotal size will be measured as this is directly linked to sperm output and is correlated with the age at puberty of female offspring

3. Electro ejaculation and semen evaluation

This involves collecting a semen sample and evaluating sperm mobility, morphology etc.

Farming connect funding is still available and could contribute towards the cost of getting your bull tested. Any enquires about funding or bull testing in general please contact the office.

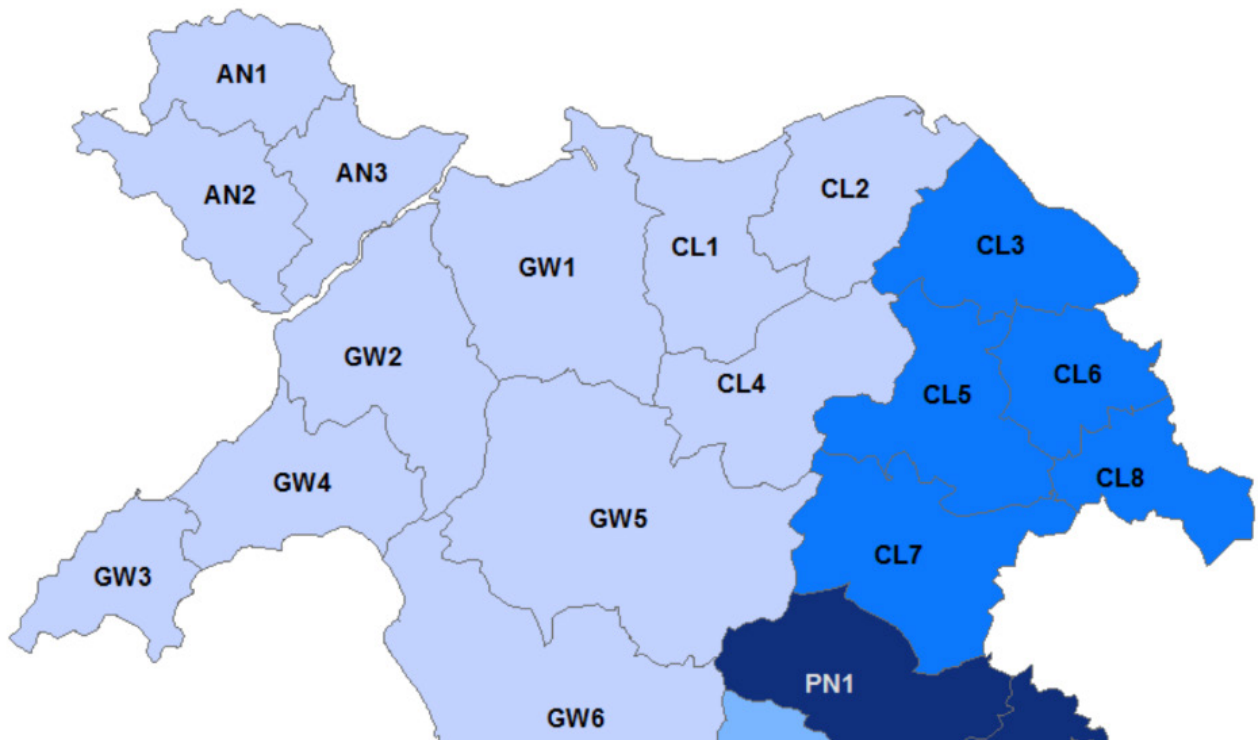


New TB regulations in the ITBAN area (CL3, CL5, CL6, CL7, CL8)

From the 1st of June 2021 new measures were introduced in the Intermediate TB Area North (ITBAN) and certain parts of the low TB area (Denbighshire and Conwy Valley). These new measures are introduced because of a continuing high numbers of open TB incidents.

1. APHA will put in place Individual Herd Action Plans in herds that have a recurrent TB breakdown within 6 months of a previous breakdown.
2. Non-homebred animals that have a bovine reaction (bottom lump) in a clear herd test will require additional Interferon-gamma blood test and IDEXX antibody testing by APHA.
3. All Short Interval TB Tests in herds under restriction will be at severe interpretation throughout the duration of a breakdown.





Changes affecting cattle keepers in the Denbighshire and Conwy Valley region of the Low TB area (CL1, CL2, CL4)

These changes can be very confusing to understand but it is vital that you are up to date with what regulations are in your area. We are very happy to discuss any changes to the regulations with you and to clarify how this affects your area.

Additionally, APHA now require any in calf TB reactor cows to be PD'd and a veterinary certificate provided for valuation purposes.

- 1.** Additional contiguous testing requirements for herds neighbouring a breakdown and increased test sensitivity. This means if your neighbour has a TB breakdown, more regular testing of your herd will be needed at severe interpretation. Severe interpretation will also be introduced into post-breakdown tests at 6 months and a further 12 months, following a breakdown.
- 2.** Introduction of pre-movement testing. This will require cattle to have had a clear TB test within 60 days of a movement.
- 3.** Testing at severe interpretation if you are in a TB breakdown. Also, any Inconclusive Reactors (IRs) to the skin test, will receive additional blood testing.



CHECS new TB Entry Level Membership

This new scheme mainly focuses on biosecurity to help farmers reduce the risk of TB breakdowns in their herds. The scheme is based on six main risk factors involved in the spread of TB, these are:

1. Minimise TB risk from purchased cattle
2. Minimise TB risk from contact with cattle in other herds
3. Minimise TB risk from your own animals
4. Minimise the spread of TB through muck or slurry

5. Reduce TB risk to and from badgers

6. Have a TB failure contingency plan

Linked to each of these risk factors are various options, as a member of the scheme you as the farmer must commit to one bio-security measure linked to each one. Becoming a member has many benefits apart from the obvious of keeping TB out of your herd, when it comes to selling breeding animals this is a very desirable trait to have and is a great addition to 'high health' accreditation. If you are interested in finding out more about the requirements, cost or any other general question, one of our vets will be happy to advise you.

Clostridial Disease

Over the last month or two we have seen a number of cases of sudden death in both growing cattle and lambs suspected to be due to Clostridial disease.

Clostridial disease is caused by a group of anaerobic bacteria whose spores are widespread in the environment, particularly in soil and organic material. Disease is triggered by various factors which damage body tissues activating latent spores, followed by very rapid multiplication in the animal's body with toxin production, causing death within hours. The response to antibiotic treatment is very poor, and sudden death usually occurs before any signs of illness.

Prevention of clostridial diseases by vaccination is extremely effective and should be seriously considered in cattle and sheep where there is a history of disease on the farm, or where risk factors exist. There are long-established vaccination protocols which prevent all common clostridial diseases in both cattle and sheep. Breeding cows and ewes can be vaccinated before calving or lambing to provide antibodies to their offspring through the colostrum. In addition, to provide ongoing cover, calves and lambs should be vaccinated once these maternal antibodies from the colostrum wane, usually at around 3 months old. Clostridial vaccines are extremely cost effective, and given the severe nature of disease, are a worthwhile investment in your herd or flock. For more details, speak to one of the farm team to discuss a vaccination program to suit your farm.

