



**Daleside**  
Veterinary Group

# FARM NEWSLETTER

## DECEMBER 2021

# MERRY CHRISTMAS



Merry Christmas to our clients, and thank you for your custom and support over the last year.

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. Our opening times are listed below.

<b>24TH DEC</b>	<b>8.30 - 15.00</b>
<b>25TH TO THE 28TH DEC</b>	<b>EMERGENCY SERVICE ONLY</b>
<b>29TH AND 30TH DEC</b>	<b>8.30 - 17.30</b>
<b>31ST DEC</b>	<b>8.30 - 15.00</b>
<b>1ST TO THE 3RD JAN</b>	<b>EMERGENCY SERVICE ONLY</b>
<b>4TH JAN</b>	<b>NORMAL OFFICE HOURS RESUMED</b>

Our delivery service shall be running as usual on Friday the 24th of December but there will not be a delivery run on Tuesday the 27th of December. Normal service will resume on the 31st of December.

## Christmas party

<b>DATE</b>	<b>7 December</b>
<b>TIME</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>
<b>VENUE</b>	<b>Wrexham Rugby Club</b>

We are extremely happy to be able to welcome you all to our annual Christmas Party.

Food will be provided and as always so will a few drinks, to show our appreciation for your custom and support over the last 12 months. Please let us know if you want to attend by the 3rd December so we can plan catering and manage the COVID risk.

**LATEST UPDATE**  
Poultry and captive bird housing measures to be introduced across the United Kingdom

**BIRD FLU ALERT**

Animal & Plant Health Agency

SEARCH 'AVIAN INFLUENZA' AT GOV.UK

## Bird Flu Update

Housing measures to protect poultry and captive birds from avian influenza have come into force across the UK from the 29th November 2021.

This means that it will be a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK to keep their birds indoors, or where this is not practical, to take steps to separate them from wild birds.

Keeping your birds undercover away from wild birds is vital to minimise the risk of them becoming infected with avian influenza by wild birds. But housing alone is not the only solution – it remains essential that you follow strict biosecurity measures to reduce the risk of disease spreading to your birds.



## Lameness meeting

Thank you to those of you who joined us for our lameness meeting last month, it was a fascinating evening ran by Nichol, giving us an insight into the Healthy Feet programme.

The Healthy Feet programme is run by the AHDB and aims to help dairy farmers reduce the number of lame cows, by identifying and applying the right management techniques. Lame cows cost time and money and are a problem not only for cow welfare, but also for the farm team morale. The programme is based around four success factors;

- Low infection pressure
- Good horn quality and hoof shape
- Low forces on the feet – good cow comfort and cow flow
- Early detection and prompt, effective treatment of lame cows

Here at Daleside we are proud to be able to offer a variety of Lameness services. Nichol is a registered Mobility Mentor and runs the Healthy Feet programme. For more information on how this service could be of use for you, please get in touch. Charlotte or Vet Tech is also a ROMS accredited mobility scorer, and can mobility score your cows to help early detection and then treatment of lame cows.

Monthly mobility scoring is an excellent opportunity to get an unbiased view of your herds mobility, and to monitor the level of lameness within your herd. Milk contracts are increasingly asking for farms to have their cows mobility scored by an independent ROMS accredited mobility scorer. As always, if you have any queries about anything mentioned in the newsletter, please get in touch on 01978 311 444.

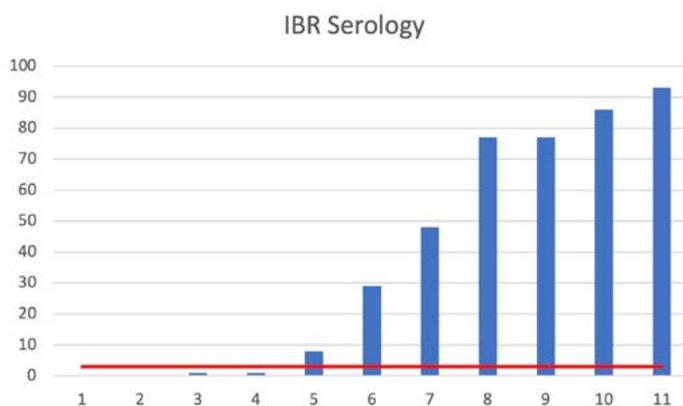
## New delivery driver

We have a new delivery driver – Marcus Bull, to help us over the busy winter period. Some of you might have already met Marcus out and about over the past month or so. He also works with the meat and dairy export team at Daleside as a Certification Support Officer.

## Bulk milk testing

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to the bulk milk testing campaign in October. The aim of the campaign was to establish the level of disease in our dairy herds and enable us to work towards reducing the prevalence on your farm.

IBR or Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis is a highly contagious respiratory disease which can have detrimental effects on dairy herds profitability. 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, this can be seen as discharge from the cow's eyes and nose.



The graph above shows results from eleven farms (labelled 1-11). Negative is regarded to be <3% and is seen as a red line on the graph. 63% of farms tested are above this line and therefore considered to be positive and consistent with infection.

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.

