

Western Holstein Club Dinner

Last month a few of the team attended The Western Holstein Club's annual Dinner and Dance, we had a great evening and was nice to see some familiar faces.

Thank you for your hospitality and we look forward to attending future meetings throughout the year.



Calf to calving – what the latest research tells us about longevity.

DATE: 14th March

TIME: 11.00am – 14.30pm

LOCATION: Chance Hall Farm,
Chance Hall Lane, Congleton,
Cheshire. CW12 4TL

Join AHDB for the final meeting for the Halton Family as an AHDB Strategic Farm. They will look at the changes that have happened on the farm over the last three years. World renowned Dr Alex Bach will talk about how we view performance of our youngstock management

from birth to calving, relating the principles to the activities at Chance Hall Farm. He will explain how the latest science underpins the need to view costs as investments that will provide a return. In this world where costs are spiralling and carbon footprint is a consideration, Dr Bach will demonstrate why we should treat heifer rearing as a key non negotiable.

At the event you will learn about:

- The role of effective youngstock management on farm losses
- Birth and colostrum management – research and practice
- Weaning and target hitting
- Costs that are non negotiable to achieve a return

If you would like to attend the meeting please email stephen.west@ahdb.org.uk or speak to us at the practice

Field Trials for bovine TB cattle vaccine and skin test update

Field trials are currently underway for a cattle vaccine and new skin test for bovine tuberculosis and as of the 6th of February they have moved onto the next phase of testing. This second phase of the field trials will assess the safety of the vaccine and the safety and performance of the DIVA skin test. Phase 1 was completed back in May 2022 and was focused on the safety and performance of the DIVA skin test in unvaccinated animals. Phase 2 will involve at least five farms with 600 animals participating, 300 of which will be vaccinated with CattleBCG, whilst the remaining half will receive a placebo, these are due to be completed in 2023.

If this next phase is successful, this project takes us one step closer to a vaccine to be used in conjunction with other measures to tackle this insidious disease which impacts livestock farmers across the globe.

English Animal Health And Welfare Review Funding

The annual animal health and welfare review funding is now available for farmers in England who keep cattle, sheep, or pigs. The annual health and welfare review is an option under the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) and is designed to reduce endemic diseases, improve animal welfare, increase productivity, and ensure veterinary medicines and vaccines are being used appropriately. Farmers will be paid a standard rate of £522 for a beef cattle review, £372 for dairy cattle, £436 for sheep and £684 for pigs. The funding can be used to carry out disease testing, to investigate and provide veterinary advice on livestock health and performance. For more information go to <https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/register-your-interest> or speak to one of the farm team for more details.



Barren Ewe Check

Reproductive failure can have detrimental effects on a sheep farms profitability, whether this is down to an increased barren rate or an increase on abortions Flock performance figures are important to help us identify key problem areas and allows us to act upon it. Abortion rates above 2%, a greater than expected number of barren ewes and weak or sickly lambs are all significant, and could indicate an infectious problem. The two main infectious causes of abortion in the UK are Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis. If you are concerned about the performance of your flock over this lambing season, then specific testing could be beneficial. Barren or aborting ewes can be blood tested to evaluate if there is an infectious cause. Luckily vaccines for Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis are highly effective at managing the impact of these infectious diseases. Please speak to one of the vets if this is something of concern for you, funding options are also available.



To vaccinate or not to vaccinate?

Clostridial diseases originate from anaerobic bacteria mostly found in the soil and the environment and are one of the leading causes of sudden death in cattle.

Since Clostridial bacteria are in the environment, the most effective way of controlling clostridial diseases is by vaccination. As the bacteria are mostly found in soil then the best time to vaccinate youngstock is before turnout ensuring the primary course is completed 2 weeks prior to turnout (this may vary depending on which vaccine is used). Cows can also be vaccinated before calving to provide antibodies to young calves via the colostrum.

Treatment of clostridial diseases carries a poor prognosis regardless of which type and the animal is often found dead. If you suspect any clostridial disease on your farm, then please seek urgent advice from one of our vets. To discuss vaccination protocols please contact the office on 01978 311444.

