

Hello and welcome to the July Newsletter

We have something to boast about this month – Tom will be attending the Royal Welsh Show on Monday 22nd to receive this year's Dr Emrys Evans Award. This is a prestigious award, with a different theme every year – recognizing individuals giving an outstanding contribution in their field. Well done Tom, we are really proud of you, well deserved.

Every July, being the anniversary of starting work, I am always reminded of how much things have changed in what seems, to me, like a relatively short period of time! One of the serious pieces of advice given to me by my first boss was –“never turn down the offer of refreshment because it may be all you have all day”. Wise words. After his first 20 years in practice, he genuinely had his “one to two list” - the farms where he would always organize his calls so that he just happened to be there between one and two o'clock! One of the biggest changes during my time is that there are far fewer farmers wives at home – we now all go out to work – there are 7 of us in SWFVs. But we still regularly enjoy your hospitality – there are packed lunches left for us, cakes baked and still the odd sit down lunch in the middle of a long day, thank you. And of course, this affords the opportunity for us to get to know you better and vice versa, and comments are made and little bits of information learned that strengthen relationships. As an employer now, I think about looking after my colleagues and the importance of taking fluids on board especially on a hot day. So please keep kindly offering us drinks (water is sufficient) and don't underestimate the mood lifting powers of a humble biscuit.



For the Vale of Glamorgan Show next month, we have sponsored the Cattle and Sheep Championship classes, and decided to give the money that we would otherwise have spent on a stand to the Marie Curie charity, in memory of Richard Walker. His name always comes up on farm – always the same sentiment of the unfair loss of a good guy. I'm sure the Show will miss his usual contribution to the behind the scenes work. Rhian, Morgan and I will be there all day, so we will see you.

Mary

New BVD Legislation and compulsory testing.

As of 1st July 2024, it will become law that all Welsh holdings are required to know their BVD status, and they will be required to complete their first annual screen by the end of June 2025.

All holdings will begin as BVD non negative, as there will be no historical data transferred onto the database. We are seeking clarification on the position regarding current CHECS accredited herds.

Farmers will receive notification of the requirement to carry out a BVD screen at the same time as their annual TB test.

Doing it at the time of an annual or other whole herd TB test would be advisable as we will see all the groups of animals required, it saves a callout fee, negates extra handling and ensures suitable animals are present for screening.

The antibody screen is to be carried out on 5 home bred animals, 9 -18 months of age and not vaccinated for BVD from each management group. This is the same approach as used in the Gwaredu BVD programme. Our charge for this is £61 per group.

There will be a range of options for alternative groups if the above is not available.

Antibody Screen Results:

Directors:

Mary Walters

Rhian Matthew-Davies

Morgan Hanks



South Wales Farm Vets

Ty Newydd

Groes Faen

CF72 8NE

Tel; 01443 223751

1. If the results are all antibody negative, then the farm gets the BVD negative status. (No certificates will be issued in the new scheme)
2. If there are any positives, then farm remains BVD non-negative

Please note there is no requirement to carry out a PI hunt on farms finishing cattle direct to slaughter. However, it is recommended that biosecurity/cattle sourcing etc is reviewed as good practice.

Carrying out a PI hunt in the light of positive results will not be compulsory in the first year of the scheme but will be strongly advised, because if there is an undetected PI it will cause problems going forward.

Any PI cattle subsequently detected will be required to go into isolation. For further information see The Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (Wales) Order 2024 (legislation.gov.uk) It will be an offence from 1/7/2024 to sell on a known PI animal to another holding, other than direct to slaughter.

We are here to support our farmers, so please call the office to speak to our vet team if you have any questions about the new BVD legislation.

Post movement testing

Since February, APHA have put in place some new rules in regards to TB monitoring in Wales. They have announced these rules as a refreshed approach to TB Eradication.

From 1 February 2024, Pre-Movement Testing of cattle or other bovine animals located in the Low TB Area (LTBA) of Wales will be re-introduced. This change is being made in response to an increase in the local spread of TB in the LTBA, some of which is due to legal localised movements of untested cattle.

In addition, and more applicable to our area, all cattle and other bovine animals which move into herds in the Intermediate TB Areas (ITBAs) of Wales from the High TB Area of Wales, the High Risk Area of England and from Northern Ireland will need a post-movement test (PoMT).

The test is compulsory and must be undertaken no sooner than 60 days and no later than 120 days after their arrival on the holding. Unfortunately it is not funded by APHA and is charged in a similar manner to a pre-movement test, that is, by time.

We have started doing some of these tests for clients in the last few weeks. We have found that even though APHA state they will aim to notify keepers of which animals require testing, this is not always the case and the responsibility lies with the keeper that has moved the animals onto their holding. They are not notifying vet practices either so we will require you to notify us in advance of the test being due.

Another issue, unlike a WHT (Whole Herd Test) where the tag numbers of all animals are issued to us on a working sheet to use on farm, post movement tests do not generate a list of tag numbers. We therefore rely on the farmers to present the correct animals to us and are unable to check their eligibility. It can be helpful to have a print out of the numbers of the animals requiring testing on the day, to speed things up.

Herd and Flock Health Plans

Health plans generally involve a visit to your farm to formulate a document. This document details how health problems can be monitored, treated and prevented. The vet will utilise their prior knowledge of your farm, the farm medicine records and any information provided by the farmer and any staff.

It will usually include the following:

- Farm details including stock numbers
- Routine calendar of events
- Vaccination protocols
- Disease status and monitoring protocols
- Biosecurity plan for incoming stock and visitors
- Nutrition plan
- Common problems and diseases specific to that farm
- Common procedures such as colostrum management and castration/tail docking protocols.
- Broken needle policy



Any size of enterprise can benefit from a health plan and it is a requirement for most enterprises with scheme memberships as well as those requiring VAN/POAO certificates. We can currently obtain partial funding for health plans if you are Farming Connect registered. Call the office to discuss further or to make a booking for your health plan.

This month's author is Morgan Hanks, one of the directors. For further information on anything mentioned in the newsletter, please contact the practice and we'll be happy to help.

Office opening hours

Monday – Friday (Except Bank Holidays)

8.30am - 5.30pm

Emergency out of hours service

Weeknights 5.30pm - 8.30am

Saturday & Sunday all day