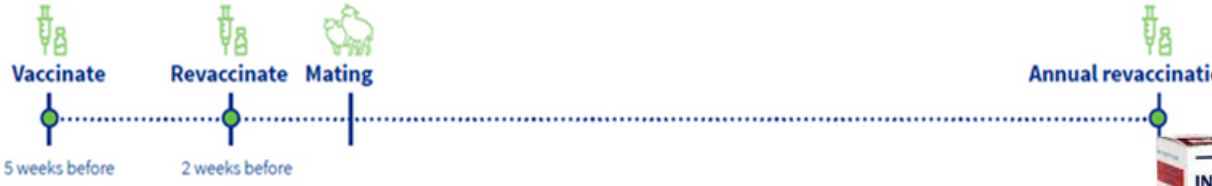
FARM FIRST VETS NEWSLETTER

JULY 2024

SHEEP ABORTION VACCINE AVAILABILITY

Unfortunately there are issues with the supply of Cevac Chlamydia this summer. The earliest we will have any is September and that is dependent on the new batch passing tests, so it is not 100% guaranteed. There is possibly another option available for flocks, which is to use Inmeva – a killed vaccine, which requires 2 doses, 3 weeks apart with the second vaccine 2 weeks before mating. A booster dose will be required the following year (or a dose of Cevac).



Inmeva vaccine can be used after tupping, ideally from 50 days of pregnancy, 2 doses 3 weeks apart) so if you have failed to get any in before tupping, this is another approach that may be available. It is available in 5 and 25 dose packs (with a 125 dose pack in the pipeline. Due to supply issues, we will order 1st and second doses at the same time.

STAFF NEWS

We have recently welcomed two new members of staff to the office team. Rachel Cook, and Eleanor Werrett. Both have relevant experience with Rachel having worked as an SQP at Wye Valley Country Store in Monmouth and Eleanor doing a similar role in an equine veterinary practice. The TB testing team will soon be joined by Phoebe Meadmore who is going to train to be an Approved Tuberculin Tester. Phoebe has been working on one of our local dairy farms and we are sure that she will be a great addition to the team.

MEETINGS

Thursday 11th July IMPROVING POST-WEANING LAMB PERFORMANCE

Attendees will work through the aspects of management affecting weaned lamb productivity and profitability with focus on weaning management, infectious disease, parasite control and nutrition. CLIENTS MUST BE REGISTERED WITH FARMING CONNECT.
VENUE- MONMOUTHSHIRE LIVESTOCK MARKET NP15 2BH Starting at 7pm FOOD PROVIDED.

Friday 30th August 2024 FIRST AID FOR FEET

Learn how to trim & treat dairy & beef cows feet. Speakers: Vet Eleri Davies Accredited Foot Health Trainer & Tom Vaughan CHCSB RAU Level 4 Fully Audited Professional Cattle Hoof Trimmer.
LANTRA CERTIFICATED. Sainsbury's Farms Requirement.
VENUE- MONMOUTHSHIRE LIVESTOCK MARKET NP15 2BH £300 + VAT (non funded) £60 + VAT (funded by Farming Connect). Starting at 9am to 4.30pm LUNCH PROVIDED. Please call the office to book you place. Tel 01873 840167.

TB TESTING RULE CHANGES

1. **Calves under 42 days of age will no longer need to be tested at Short Interval and Check Tests.**
This rule comes into effect Sat 15th June 2024, Evidence has shown that calves under 42 days are unlikely to show as reactors due insufficient time to develop hypersensitivity to the test.
2. **Removal of AFU 6 monthly testing.**
This is to encourage more AFUs to open up in Wales. Breakdown tests will carry on.
3. **Check tests after a slaughter house case will stop**: instead a short interval test will be done 60 days after the slaughterhouse case left the farm, if the case is PCR positive. Applies to OTF farms, AFU and LFUs. Any check tests already arranged will go ahead.
4. Trace tests will only follow on from visible lesion/culture positive breakdowns.

NEW BVD LEGISLATION

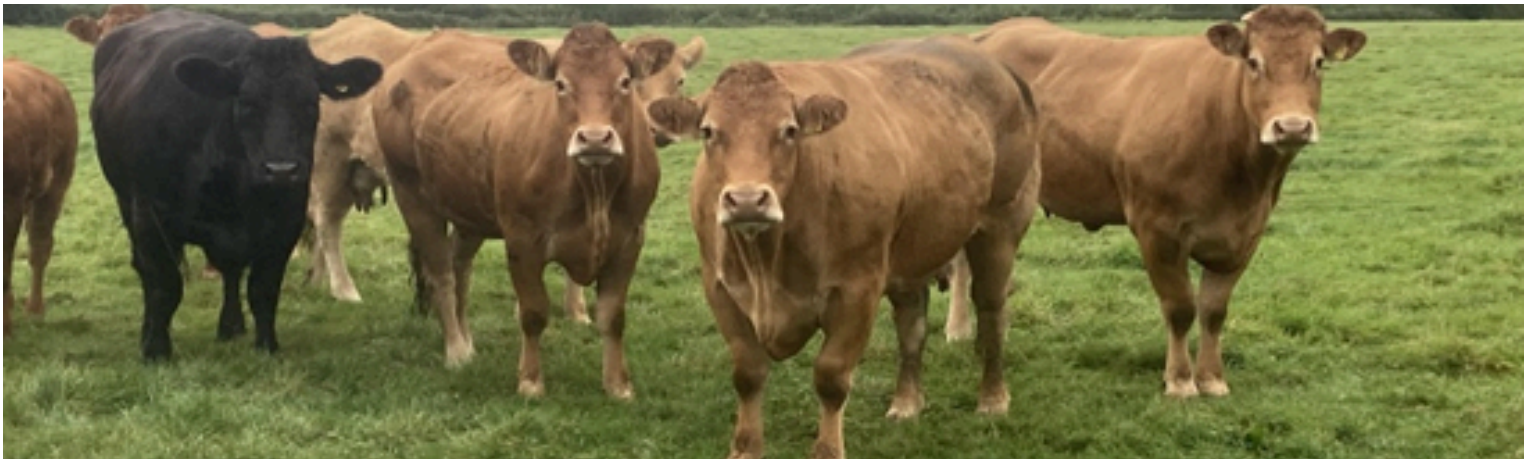
As of **1st July 2024**, it will become law that all Welsh holdings are required to know their BVD status. Although farms will be given 12 months to get their screening done the cheapest and easiest time to sample a herd is at your TB test.

More information to follow.

DISCOUNT RAM VASECTOMY DAY

THURSDAY 18TH JULY

Individual Vasectomy £96 + vat
Promo Price £86.79
Additional Rams £82 + vat
Promo Price £74.06
Please call the office to book your rams in.



THE ROLE OF TRACE ELEMENTS IN CATTLE HEALTH

Many of our herds have turned their cattle out onto grazing for the summer, so this gives us a good chance to plan for the coming year, with the aim of keeping them in tip top health and condition for sale, and for the next breeding year. One area to consider is trace element testing and supplementation (where necessary), to help maintain their health and wellbeing.

Trace elements, a category of minerals found in minute quantities within the body, play a crucial role in cattle health. Some of these elements, despite their presence in small amounts, are nutritionally essential. Deficiencies in them can lead to substantial impacts on animal health and welfare, resulting in production loss in the UK cattle industry. The level of trace elements present on a farm is determined by its location, geography and soil health.

Key deficiencies commonly observed in our practice within Monmouthshire and adjacent counties include Iodine, Selenium/Vitamin E, Cobalt and Copper. Excessive trace elements can also lead to toxicity in livestock. Although the process of testing for these can be complex, it is an integral part of veterinary practice, ensuring the health and welfare of animals.

Iodine is a core component of thyroid hormones, essential for growth and development. Iodine deficiency in cattle can result in delayed development, hypothyroidism, goitre (thyroid gland enlargement), abortions, weakness, stillbirths and increased mortality, particularly in young calves. Iodine deficiency can be triggered by lack of iodine in the diet, or secondary to selenium deficiency.

Cattle eating plants such as brassicas e.g. kale, turnips, white clover, which may contain substances that disrupt the production of thyroid hormones, are known to require additional Iodine to counter these effects.

Selenium and vitamin E, functioning as antioxidants, play a significant role in the body. Selenium deficiency affects cattle of all ages and manifests in various ways. For instance, calves suffering from selenium deficiency may exhibit clinical signs of White Muscle Disease, a nutritional myopathy causing muscle breakdown, weakness, and sometimes death.

Adult cows deficient in selenium or vitamin E are at a greater risk of developing immune complications such as uterine infections post-calving, mastitis and fertility problems. In bulls, this deficiency can lead to reduced fertility due to disruption in the formation of sperm.

Cobalt, contributing to the formation of vitamin B12, is essential for immunity and growth. A deficiency in cobalt restricts Vit B12 production, thereby leading to ill-thrift, anorexia, poor weight gain, poor immunity, and an increased presence of diseases caused by worms and infections.

Copper deficiency, although less common, has been identified as an emerging issue in 2024. Symptoms include poor growth, thin skin and hair coat discolouration in cattle. It can also affect fertility, causing delayed puberty in young heifers, reduce immune function and lead to anaemia.

While copper deficiency is relatively rare, copper toxicity is seen more commonly in veterinary practice. Chronic toxicity occurs when increased levels are absorbed over a few weeks, often due to additional minerals in concentrate feeds, or rumen boluses. This leads to an accumulation of copper in the liver, causing a sudden release into the bloodstream, resulting in haemolysis, jaundice and death.

There are many challenges with trace element deficiencies and getting the right combination for your stock. At Farm First Vets we can help determine these and help advise on the correct combination of products and their application, resulting in happy, healthy cattle. For more advice please give us a call.