

## Farm First Newsletter November 2014

**Liver Fluke Meeting** In conjunction with Novartis Animal Health, we are holding a meeting on the impact and management of liver fluke in dairy cattle at the King of Prussia on 20<sup>th</sup> November at 12pm. For any dairy farmers who are interested in attending we are able to carry out a free bulk milk sample for liver fluke antibodies. Please contact us asap if you are interested in participating as we would like to get all the results back in time to discuss at the meeting.

**Ceporex and Milk Withhold** The level of production at which it becomes economic to treat a cow with a nil milk withhold drug depends on individual cow's level of production, the current milk price and the cost of the drug in question. The information below may help you make a decision. The conditions that these drugs would treat include metritis and foul in the foot.

**Alamycin 10** for 3 days for 600 kg cow with 84hr milk withdrawal.  
Cost £7.50 + discarded milk for 6.5 days (3 days treatment plus 3.5 days milk withdrawal)

**Ceporex** (25mls a day 3 days for 600kg cow- Nil milk withdrawal)  
Cost £25.50 + no milk discard. £18 difference in price of drugs so need to be giving 10 litres/day over 6.5 days to break even (@ 30p/litre)

**Cevaxcel** (12 mls a day for 600kg cow for 3 days- Nil milk withdrawal)  
Cost £16 for 3 days + no milk discard. £8.50 difference in price of drugs so need to be giving 5 litres/day over 6.5 days to break even (@ 30p/litre)

**Single Farm Payment** The RPA has started to penalise farmers whose TB tests are not completed on time. The level of reduction will depend on the length of time the test was overdue before completion. Where a test is overdue between one and ten days, a 1% reduction will generally be applied. Where a test is overdue by between eleven and thirty days, a 3% reduction will generally be applied. Tests overdue more than thirty days will result in a 5% reduction. Significantly higher reductions will be applied if the breach is considered to have been caused intentionally. It is the farmer's responsibility to notify AHVLA in writing of any extenuating circumstances for failing to complete a test within the prescribed timeframe. This information will be considered as part of the referral process to RPA. Should anyone feel that they have had reductions applied incorrectly, RPA operate an appeals process for CAP Scheme issues. For more information see the RPA website: [www.rpa.defra.gov.uk](http://www.rpa.defra.gov.uk). To avoid the risk of any penalties please contact us when you receive the notification letters from AHPA to arrange your test within the dates you have been given.

**Minimising the risk of introducing TB infection** We have received the following information in a letter from Christianne Glossop, Chief vet for Wales.

"Next year we hope to be able to routinely publish the location of TB infected herds to give farmers a better understanding of the disease situation in the area that they are sourcing cattle from. In the mean time we are encouraging cattle buyers to ask for the following information to give them a better understanding of the potential TB risk of cattle they are buying:

**How long the herd has been TB free**

Buying cattle from herds with a recent history of the disease represents more of a risk than buying cattle from herds that have never had TB. In Wales, herds with a history of TB are around three times more likely to have a new incident than herds with no history of the disease.

### Date of Pre-Movement Test (PrMT)

Every animal from Wales offered for sale to an Officially TB Free herd should have tested negative for TB. Cattle moving into Wales may not have been required to have had a TB test before they are moved. It is good practice to isolate and post-movement test any animals that have not been tested before they are moved.

### Date of the last whole herd test

In Wales, we know that every cattle herd must be tested at least once a year. However, cattle from other parts of the UK may not have been tested for up to four years. Knowing a herd has tested negatively recently may provide extra reassurance.

WAG has also produced a leaflet on reducing the risk of introducing diseases other than TB when buying in cattle. Please let us know if you would like to receive a copy.

**Newsletters on Website** All our recent newsletters are published on our website so if you don't receive a bill every month, or don't see the newsletter regularly please check out [www.farmfirstvets.co.uk](http://www.farmfirstvets.co.uk) and look in the news and events sections to find the newsletters.

**Facebook** We are now on Facebook and invite you to have a look at our page and comment on the goings on.

### **Farming Connect Meetings**

On 11th November 2014 at 19:00 there will be an Open Discussion Group led by Tony Lathwood, ADAS titled " An introduction to Nutrient Management Planning using the free farmers software tool "PLANET" at the King of Prussia, Penpergw, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 9AR

On 24th November 2014 at 19:00 there will be an Open Workshop led by Kate Phillips ADAS on Balancing sheep nutrition to support the pregnant ewe. This meeting will be held at Raglan Parc Golf Club, NP15 2ER

On 4th December 2014 at 19:00 there will be a Discussion Group Meeting titled "Winter Health Check: Getting your flock ready!" led by Kate Hovers. MRCVS. This one will be held at the Monmouthshire Livestock Centre. NP15 2BH.

For information on all these meetings please contact:  
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**The Joke** There was once a sheep farmer who needed help with the difficult task of castrating some of his inferior male sheep to keep them from breeding with the females. He hired a French guy who didn't speak much English, but was a very good worker. After the first day, they had successfully castrated 14 sheep and his French worker was just about to throw away the "parts", but the sheep farmer yelled, "No! Don't throw those away! My wife fries them up and we eat them. They're delicious and we call them 'sheep fries'." Later that day, the French hired hand came in for supper, and indeed the 'sheep fries' were tasty. The next day, they castrated 16 sheep, and the following evening they all settled down to another supper of 'sheep fries'. The third day, however, when the sheep farmer came home, he asked his wife where the French hired hand was, and she said, "You know, it's the weirdest thing! I told him since there weren't very many 'sheep fries' this evening, we were also going to have French fries, and he ran like hell!!"