

TB update

There are some important changes to TB testing regimes that may have an impact on your farm.

IR test results

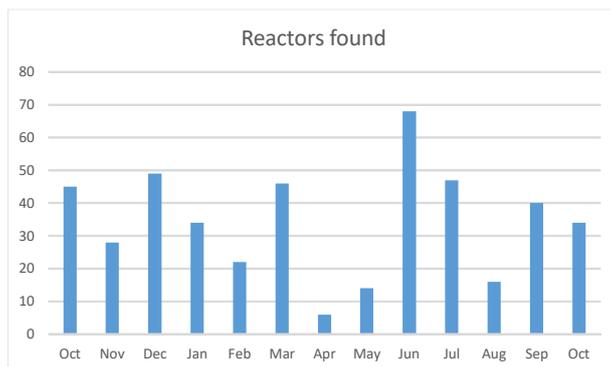
An IR or inconclusive reactor, is a cow that has failed the skin test but not with a big enough change to result in a full reactor. It has been established that many of these cows end up as either reactors to the skin test when retested or subsequently are found with TB lesions at slaughter. This makes them a very high risk for spread of disease if moved away from the farm they were originally tested on. For this reason these IR cows are now restricted to the holding where they tested positive for the rest of their lives even if they have a subsequent clear skin test. If an animal is moved BCMS will trigger an automatic notification to APHA and spot checks on IR locations will take place.



It will be possible to lift this permanent restriction at the owners expense by carrying out a gamma interferon blood test, assuming the animal passes that test. Beware, however, that if she fails the blood test she will be classed as a reactor.

Gamma interferon blood tests

Most of you will be aware of the gamma interferon blood test but few of you will have encountered it. The test is more sensitive than the skin test but slightly less specific meaning that there are a few more 'false positives' than with the skin test but also less chance of missing TB animals, especially those that are 'anergic' or resistant to the skin test. This blood test is likely to be used more in the future especially in areas where wildlife controls are ongoing - the significance of this being slower testing as samples take longer to collect than the skin test alone. In general the blood test can help eradicate TB from a herd more quickly, but with more 'collateral damage' on the way.



Numbers of reactors found

We are often asked how TB testing is going and how many reactors we have found. The graph to the left shows the number of reactors we have found over the last few months. As you can see there are some big variations between months.

New TB tester

Our testing workload has gone through the roof recently with changes in contiguous testing policies amongst other things so we have taken on a new TB tester Pablo Sancho - see over for more details.

Selekt pump repairs

Did you know that when you buy a Selekt pump from us it comes with a lifetime maintenance and parts warranty. Does your pump need a service? If it does give us a ring and we will arrange a day for it to be done.



LARGE ANIMAL VETS: Greg Mallard BVSc MRCVS, Duncan Williams BVMS MRCVS, Chris Mangham BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS, Georgina Doel BVetMed MRCVS, James Ryder BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS, Richard Talbot BVSc MRCVS, Alex Roberts BVSc MRCVS, Emily Logie MSc BVSc MRCVS
Veterinary surgeries at: Frome, Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge and Melksham
01373 451115

Herd Health Plan changes

You may have noticed, if you have completed a Herd Health Plan recently, that there is a new section covering your on farm use of antibiotics as well as your plans to minimise the use of all antibiotics but especially those defined as critically important for human health. Completion of these records and signing off by your vet is not something to be left until the night before an audit ! Please make sure you leave plenty of time for this and contact us well in advance.



TB Tester

To relieve the workload on our veterinary team we have now employed a TB tester.

Pablo Sancho qualified from Valencia and worked as a farm vet in Spain before joining the UN Army where he was



involved in humanitarian work in Syria, Lebanon and Israel.

Pablo's interests outside of work include riding his classic Yamaha and playing roller hockey.

Lambing Course 2018

Presentation and practical session to prepare you for lambing season

Suitable for any sheep, goat or alpaca owner and will include:

- * Preparation for lambing
- * Problem solving and when to call the vet
- * Caring for the newborn lambs, kids and crias
- * Recognising common diseases and how to prevent/treat them
- * Practical skills; placing ropes and correcting malpresentations
- * Husbandry procedures; giving injections, stomach tubing, castration/tail docking with rubber rings

Our 'lambing toolbox' will be for sale on the day. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask our vets questions.

31st January 2018 10am at Garston House in Frome

£75pp including lunch and refreshments

Call the practice on (01373) 451115 to book your place



Greg's Useless Festive Facts !



It's technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been repealed so it is up to you if you want to risk a knock at the door!

Scientists have calculated that Santa has to visit 822 homes a second to deliver all the world's presents on Christmas Eve, traveling at 650 miles a second. We could do with him working at the practice !

