

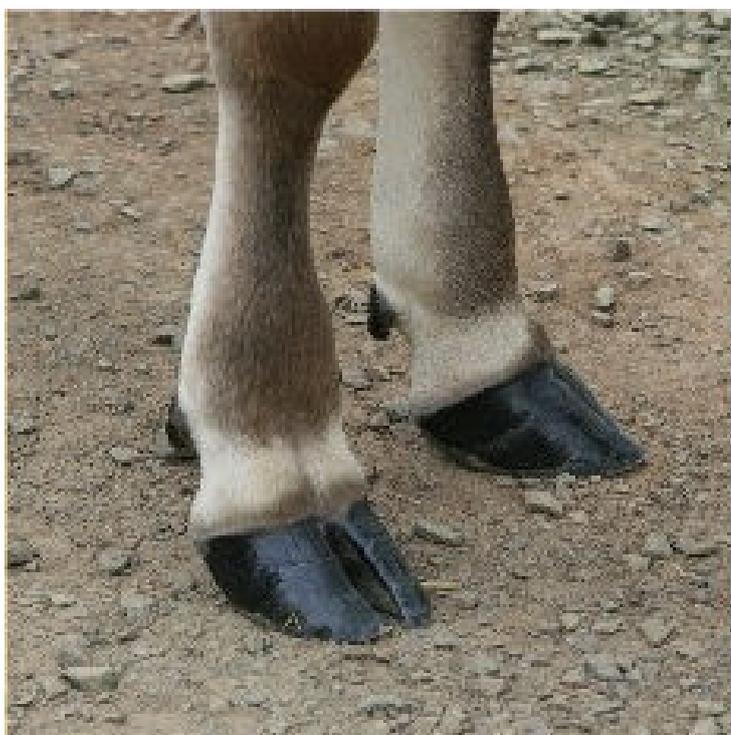
Healthy Feet Program

The Healthy Feet Programme (HFP) aims to help dairy farmers reduce the number of lame cows on their farms by identifying and applying the right management techniques.

Lame cows cost time and money, and are a problem not only because of potential welfare issues, but also because, like any ongoing problem, they can affect staff morale.

Lameness is a term which covers many conditions: some are caused by infection, and some by physical and management factors. An understanding of which types of lameness are present, coupled with a structured approach to tackle the underlying causes is required to tackle lameness effectively.

The AHDB Dairy Healthy Feet Programme is a structured approach which will help dairy farmers make important progress towards diagnosing the problems, devising an action plan, and develop the skills necessary for long-term lameness control. James is our 'mobility mentor' having attended a specialist course and will tailor the plan to your individual farm to target cost-effective areas for improvement. As part of the program you will also receive one-to-one foot trimming tuition.



The approach is based around the 'four success factors'

- Low infection pressure
- Good horn quality and hoof shape
- Low forces on the feet – good cow comfort and cow flow
- Early detection and prompt, effective treatment of lame cows

The normal cost of the HFP is £750 but we have a discounted special offer for the month of April of just £500.

The HFP can be included in your normal herd health plan and is designed to tackle lameness and decrease its' incidence and cost to you, as well as improving cattle welfare and productivity.

A lame cow will milk at 10% below its potential!

Please call the surgery for more information or to book call us on 01373 451115.

Critically Important Antibiotics

Garston Veterinary Group

CIA

Many of you will be aware that several groups of antibiotics have been identified as critical last line antibiotics in human medicine. These have been classed as Critically Important Antibiotics (CIA's). The antibiotics in question are 3rd and 4th Generation Cephalosporins and Fluoroquinolones. Despite little evidence that use of these antibiotics in production animals poses any risk to humans there is a move within agriculture to drastically reduce their use. Farmers, Vets and Milk Buyers are being very proactive by putting protocols in place that should ultimately stop the use of CIA's on farm.

We are working with all of our clients to implement the guide lines set out by most of the major Milk Buyers. The outline of this policy is:

Where possible all CIA use will be switched to alternative antibiotics or non-antibiotic alternatives.

If CIA's are required on farms they will be stored in a separate box to non-CIA's. This box will be marked clearly with a message requiring veterinary consultation before any CIA is administered to an animal.

On the rare occasion that use of a CIA is deemed appropriate by a vet, a pre-treatment sample must be taken from the animal and sent for culture and sensitivity. A record of this culture data must be kept on farm for review and any audits.

At 3 monthly intervals the sensitivity data must be reviewed with the vet to assess the ongoing usage of these antibiotics in similar cases. 10% of samples must demonstrate resistance to all other antibiotics to justify their ongoing use.

To help you identify CIA's we are now labeling all of our CIA antibiotics with a small sticker as shown above. If you need to discuss how this will affect your farm please contact the surgery

BVD Free England

I'm backing



Bovine Viral Diarrhoea or BVD is a highly contagious viral disease of cattle. It is one of the biggest disease issues facing the UK cattle industry. BVD has been estimated to cost between £13 and £31 per cow in Great Britain. The national cost could be as high as £61M per year. BVD Free England is an industry-led scheme designed to eliminate BVD virus from all cattle herds in the country by 2022. It will develop a national database, storing individual and herd test results for scheme members. BVD Free is based on achieving the elimination of BVD through identification and removal of animals persistently infected (PIs) with BVD.

The BVD Free Scheme will be run on a voluntary basis until most of the cattle industry is covered by the Scheme, when a solid case can be presented to the Government for collaboration on the introduction of compulsory measures. Testing for BVD is straightforward. A great starting point in milking herds is to run a bulk milk sample and look for virus. This will tell you if any active infection is circulating amongst these animals. In a beef herd, 5-10 blood samples can be taken from each adult cattle management group, (provided they are unvaccinated) to look for antibodies, as well as samples from calves. In vaccinated cattle, we can blood test the entire herd and look for virus. Bloods can be pooled into batches to save cost.

An alternative would be to tag and test the youngstock. This system uses tags that take a tissue sample from the ear, which is then tested for the presence of virus. These tags can be used in place of standard management tags, and don't cost a great deal more. This is a very useful tool for those farms that vaccinate.

We encourage everyone to look into joining this scheme. Please drop in a bulk milk sample and speak to your routine vet or give us a call to get the ball rolling! Eradicating BVD from your herd will improve productivity and save money.

Greg's Useless Fact!

What is unusual about the sentence
'the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog'?

