

Newsletter November 2010

We have run a great series of meetings over the autumn months that we hope have been of benefit to those whom attended. We will finish the year off with a non-veterinary topic, energy saving. We hope this will give you some useful information on how to best use those resources (water, electric, wind, heat, light) we all have to hand, in a practical, on-farm situation. This meeting is to be held on Thursday 28th November at Yew Tree Farm, Kingston Seymour, starting at 10.30am and finishing up with some lunch. Please call the office to book a place. We would also like to thank all those who have hosted farm meetings this year, it provides a good opportunity for us to learn from one another, hopefully to the benefit of your farming enterprise.

Some of you may have seen or read about a new European driven initiative called 'Healthy Livestock.' This was recently launched at the South-West Beef and Dairy Events. The scheme is trying to drive forward eradication of infectious diseases such as BVD and Johne's, as well as trying to reduce the incidence of Lameness and Mastitis. The scheme is very structured and has to follow a particular course, with audit trails in place to prevent money being miss-spent. That said it does have the potential to offer significant savings on lab tests and veterinary input. There are also some sheep health schemes within the initiative. If anyone is interested in finding out more then please give us a call so we can get the ball rolling!!

We have been asked to participate in a scheme with Cats Protection in neutering farm and feral cats. Essentially this means that any farm cats over 4 months old can be neutered for **free**, male or female during the month of November. If you are interested in this scheme then please call the Summer Lane Surgery on 01934 511611.

I am sure most of you will have read or heard about the Defra consultation on badger culling. This proposal no doubt has it's faults; however this looks to be the only control option likely to hit the table. It is vitally important that we all respond so it carries the most weight possible. You can be assured that the badger lobby will let their voice be heard loud and clear; it is up to us all to counter that argument. Your local NFU office will be able to provide you with a copy of the consultation document.

Some of you are now aware that Animal Health are carrying out more TB tests themselves. For the moment it seems that they will be conducting only the 60 day short interval tests. I am afraid there is very little we can do about this. Next year we as a practice may lose TB testing completely, watch this space!!