



# CHESHIRE FARM VETS

## Newsletter

### April 2020

#### COVID-19

In light of all the latest developments and government guidelines regarding COVID-19, we would like to re-assure our clients that we are still here.



#### Rest Assured...

we will continue to provide care for your animals

We endeavour to provide the same excellent level of service and care to you and your animals, whilst following all social distancing guidelines.

We understand the added pressures our agricultural industry is currently facing and would like to take this opportunity to **THANK YOU KEY WORKER FARMERS**, from everyone at Cheshire Farm Vets.



#### Monthly Photo Competition

Congratulations to Abbie Wardle on winning the photo of the month competition for March with the following picture, its great! We plan to run this competition every month with a prize for the winners and then we will compile all of these photographs into a Cheshire Farm Vets Calendar for 2021 so make sure you enter your Farming Photos!



We plan to run this competition every month with a prize for the winners and then compile all of these photographs into our Cheshire **Farm Vets Calendar for 2021**. So make sure to send us your Farming Photos!

#### Staffing News

We are pleased to introduce 2 new members of staff!

##### Sarah-Jane Hulme

Sarah has been with us since February and some of you may have met her already. Sarah has come to work both in the office and on farm as a Vet Tech.



Sarah's passion for farming has been ongoing for many years having worked on dairy farms in Cheshire for the past five years, she also has a family beef and sheep farm and rears her own calves. In her spare time away from farming she enjoys spending time with her family, trips away and visiting her parents on the West Coast of Scotland.

We are trying to get Sarah out on farm when possible to meet everyone and to supervise her training. If anyone is interested in discussing the Vet Tech services we hope to offer very soon, please do get in touch with the office.

##### Alvaro Selva

We are delighted to introduce our new TB testing vet Alvaro. Originally from Valencia, Alvaro studied in CEU Cardenal Herrera University in Spain and graduated as a vet in 2018.



After finishing his degree, he moved to the UK and has been working as a locum in different practices around the country and more recently Cheshire.

Alvaro has plenty of on-farm experience and is familiar with the TB and farming situation in the area.

Outside of work, Alvaro enjoys hiking in the countryside and riding a mountain bike. He likes every kind of sports, especially motor sports and football.

On Wednesdays we plan to get Alvaro out with one of the clinical vets so we can train him in certain clinical skills (i.e. castration, dehorning etc) which he will be able to offer as a service to you in due course.



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## SPRING HAS WELL AND TRULY SPRUNG!

We have been having some truly glorious weather over the past couple of weeks and its amazing to see animals once again turned out to pasture following the winter months.



### Nematodirosis:

Continued warm weather means that much of England is now at HIGH RISK and increasing numbers of areas are at VERY HIGH RISK of Nematodirus infection. Unlike other gut nematodes, Nematodirus infection passes directly from one season's lamb crop to the next. Pastures may become highly infective in a short space of time due to favourable conditions leading to mass hatching and emergence of infective stage larvae. If this mass emergence or "peak hatch" occurs at a time when lambs are starting to graze extensively, typically around 6-12 weeks of age, this can lead to widespread and severe disease characterised by sudden onset diarrhoea, dehydration and death. Be sure to identify high risk pastures and monitor livestock closely. We can offer in house Faecal Egg counting and have an extensive range of treatment products available at competitive prices. It is important to seek the correct advice from a vet or SQP before purchasing products to ensure you are using the correct group of parasiticide. It is a good idea to do a post drench check to monitor any product resistance that may be happening. If you would like to discuss any concerns with one of the vets please give the office a call 01270 310010.



### Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is a very common disease that can be found in most farm animals. It is caused by Eimeria protozoan parasites. Coccidia eggs are passed in the faeces of infected animals and go on to infect other animals. Eggs can persist in the environment for long periods of time, often more than 12 months in sheds, poached ground or in water sources. It is also a good idea to do a post drench check to monitor any product resistance that may be happening.

### Clinical Signs

- Diarrhoea
- Reduced appetite
- Rectal prolapse
- Dehydration
- Lethargy
- Weight loss
- Death

Disease can also be subclinical, where the animals do not show obvious signs of diarrhoea but have a reduced weight gain and productivity. Diagnosis is possible by identifying coccidia eggs in a faecal sample which can be done in house in the practice lab.

### Prevention

Prevention is much more effective than treatment of coccidiosis. Hygiene is the most important element to stop disease spreading between calves. To protect calves from spreading it within the group the environment and bedding should be kept clean and dry. Stocking density should be kept low and mixing calves of different age groups should be avoided. As the eggs are very resistant to the environment the key step in eliminating the disease is the cleaning of the pens between groups of calves. In the poultry industry sheds are completely decontaminated between batches. This involves first cleaning out all organic material and washing with water. Following this the sheds are disinfected by chemicals and even flaming if required, this kills any pathogens present. When cleaning out calf pens it is worth considering whether coccidia eggs could be left behind to go on and infect the next group of calves entering the pen.

## Product News

As we come to the end of the financial year we would like to make you aware of a few changes in products. Some products have been reviewed and we have switched to a different brand to ensure that we are always able to offer medicines at a competitive price to our clients. Some products are currently out of stock from the suppliers so we have sourced alternatives and some products are being altered by the pharmaceutical companies. We anticipate more changes to come with the current situation but will keep our clients as up-to-date as possible with any changes to stock or data sheets each month.

**Ketofen** – we are currently using Kelapofen injection.

**Loxicom** – we are only stocking 250ml bottles of Loxicom and stocking 100ml Recocam as an alternative to 100ml Loxicom

**Norodine 24** – this has been out of stock for a while. We are now using Censulfatrim injection.

**Tetra Delta** – still unavailable, we have stocks of Gamaret (Czech republic alternative) currently available.

**Foston** – there has been a product recall so this is currently unavailable. The only product we have currently containing phosphorus is VigoPhos injection. Please speak to a vet about how to use this as an alternative to Foston.