



# CHESHIRE FARM VETS

Tel: 01270 310010

## Newsletter

October/November 2023

### Medicines Orders

We are thrilled to see so many of you popping into the practice to collect your meds orders now that we are at Dingle Bank Farm.

Just a reminder to please make sure you give us a call to place your order prior to coming in to collect. This gives us the time to speak to the vet and get your order authorised and then put up ready for you when you arrive. Going forward when you place your orders we will be asking for a quick description of what you will be using the meds for. This is so the vets can ensure that you are getting the most appropriate medicine for the treatment required.

### Vet Attestations Form

From December 13th 2023 Farmers and vets must keep a copy of this declaration for their records and provide a copy to their livestock auction market or meat processor if asked.

Farms which are part of qualifying assurance schemes do not need to complete the veterinary declaration. If you are NOT Red Tractor Assured and sell stock that could in whole or be part exported to the EU please call the office at Cheshire Farm Vets to book an appointment for us to complete the paperwork for you. We will post a laminated hard copy of the form back to you.

### Mastatest Testing

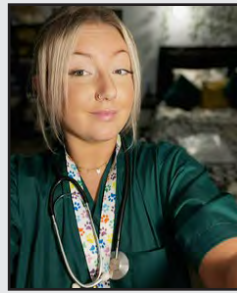
Mastatest can be used for testing milk samples from cows with High Cell Counts (subclinical mastitis) as well as proactively managing them, we can work with you to improve your herd's health overall and improve milk quality and productivity.

Mastatest tells us what bacteria is present so we can treat correctly every time. This also ensures a reduction in antibiotic usage on farm and also reduction in treatment costs. We now offer this service in practice to all our dairy clients as on offs or part of our routine work.



### Staffing News

We are excited to let you know that we have a few new starters joining the Cheshire Farm Vets team over the coming months.



**Jazmyn** will be joining our admin team on the 6th November as Pharmacy Co-Ordinator. Jaz has done a degree in Bio-Veterinary Sciences with the University of Chester and is looking forward to bringing her skills and knowledge to the role.



**Maia** will be joining us in the new year as an ATT TB tester. Maia grew up on a Smallholding in Macclesfield and has worked over in Australia and Barcelona but more recently she has been working as herd manager on a large alpaca farm closer to home. She is looking forward to getting stuck in with your TB tests and meeting you all out on farm.



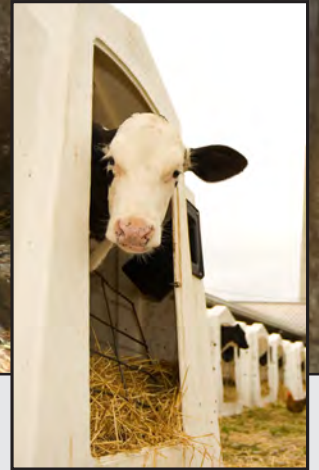
**Erica** is joining our veterinary team in the New Year. Erica graduated from Bristol University in 2022 and has been working in mixed practice in West Yorkshire but is moving to Cheshire as her passion lies within the Farm sector.

In sadder news. Hugo has made the decision to leave Cheshire Farm Vets at the end of this year. As you all know Hugo is one of the founders of Cheshire Farm Vets and has been instrumental in creating the practice we have today. He will be very sadly missed by all of us here and I'm sure you'll all join us in wishing him the very best as he takes a little break from clinical veterinary practice.



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This is the ideal disease control point where a little thought on which animals to treat for what, with what and when, can have a huge impact Pneumonia season is very much upon us, with colder temperatures and the ongoing wet conditions adding further pressure onto youngstock.

The seasonable changes are inevitable but losses and disease outbreaks do not need to be! Hygienic conditions, enough quality colostrum, good ventilation, a quality plane of nutrition and a strong immune system, all together these can lead to an overall prevention of pneumonia, and a reduction in the serious cost implications. It is now estimated that a case of pneumonia in a replacement dairy heifer will cost in excess of £1000 over its lifetime, can you afford to ignore pneumonia on your farm?!

### What can I do to reduce the impact of pneumonia this winter?

The autumn/winter months can be a high risk time for pneumonia in animals of all ages as stocking density increases due to animals coming in, higher moisture levels in the air and weakened immune systems brought about by other stresses. A lot can be done to prevent the spread, reduce the impact and speed up the recovery for cases of 'blowing' and 'snotty' animals.

### Prevention is far better than cure

This is certainly the case for pneumonia. Vaccination can play a critical role in the control of the disease. Colostrum is as always vital to providing a good foundation. There are also vaccines available that offer protection from many of the viral and bacterial causes which can be given from as young as a few days old. Grouping animals together which are a similar age and reducing shared airspace are also important ways of reducing exposure. Most pneumonia bugs are airborne so sharing the same airspace will likely help it spread from older and stronger calves to the younger and more fragile groups.

As there are many different pneumonia vaccines available, it is important that vaccines which are used match the bugs causing pneumonia in your animals. This is best confirmed by your vet using a swab which is placed down the nose to the throat, and the bugs can be identified.

### Prompt identification and treatment

This is key. The sooner treatment is started, the sooner the animal recovers, but more importantly the less long term damage their fragile lungs will receive. Although there are many viral causes of pneumonia, secondary bacterial infections are common so most animals will need antibiotic treatment (best discussed with your vet). Anti-inflammatory treatment is also key and has been proven to be cost effective as well as good welfare. A thermometer is an vital piece of kit for pneumonia outbreaks and taking regular temperatures from all animals in a group can help you spot a sick calf before coughing starts (>39.5°C /103°F should be treated).

So there is a lot you can do this autumn/winter to reduce pneumonia. Many of these action points- colostrum, vaccination, prompt treatment and housing - are great themes to be working on all year round not just the colder months

If you are interested in vaccination options or would like to know what bugs are causing your pneumonia, please contact the office for more information.

