

# The Green Gazette



FARM  
July 23

## Animal Health and Welfare Pathway- Annual Review

The Animal Health and Welfare review is a new government scheme as part of their Sustainable Farming Incentive. The scheme aims to promote animal welfare and disease reduction, thereby boosting productivity. There is funding available for an annual vet visit. These visits are intended to be non-prescriptive, with the areas to focus on being chosen by you and your vet.

### What funding is available?

Funding varies by farm type. Some of the funding must be allocated to a 2-3hr vet visit and compulsory disease testing (varied by species).

- Dairy- £372- some of which must be spent on a bulk milk BVD test.
- Beef- £522- some of which must be spent on blood sampling 9-15month old youngsters for BVD (six per group).
- Sheep- £436- some of which must be spent on faecal egg counting.
- Pigs- £684- some of which must be spent on PRRS testing.

The rest can be spent however you and your vet feel would best benefit your animals. For example, trace element or metabolic testing, ill-thrift investigation, lameness management or breeding soundness exams. If you were already thinking of doing some of these, this could be a good way to save some money.

### Who can apply and how?

Currently one visit can be applied for per single business identifier, to focus on one species of animal. To be eligible for the scheme you must be eligible for the BPS and have more than 10 cattle or 20 sheep or 50 pigs.

To apply, go online to <https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/register-your-interest>. Once you have received confirmation of your application, contact us to let us know and book a time for your review.

To access funding, once a visit has been completed, submit your invoice and vet report to DEFRA to claim your money.

### A note from Martin

Thank you all for your patience and understanding with regards to invoicing recently. I appreciate the accounting difficulties of not having regular invoices. Thanks to Kim's hard work you should now be up to date with invoices and this should continue going forwards.

Thank you again for your continued support of the practice.

### Skelton Show

It was great to see so many familiar faces at Skelton show. Our new branded gazebo made a successful debut, standing up to the wind and rain overnight.

Hannah came 1<sup>st</sup> in her class with homebred horse Diva. Stephen (Head of gazebo management) won best in show with his photograph and vet Charlie placed 3<sup>rd</sup> with a pencil sketch.

Well done to all involved for such a successful show. We hope to see you at Heskett on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September!

## Pinkeye- Do you know the risks?

### What is it?

Pinkeye is an infection of the surface of the eye and the conjunctival membranes that surround it. It is caused by bacteria and can spread from animal to animal. Also called Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis, it can affect both cattle and sheep/goats. Signs of pinkeye include:

- Squinting
- Runny eyes
- Redness
- Swelling of the conjunctiva
- Sensitivity to light
- Clouding of the cornea (the surface of the eye)

### Risk factors for stock developing pink eye include:

- Flies
- Dust
- Grazing long grass- this can result in physical damage to the surface of the eye and can also spread bacteria from one animal to another
- High levels of UV from sunlight
- Mixing of groups of animals
- Attendance at shows or sales
- Trace mineral deficiencies affecting immunity e.g. copper, selenium

Treatment is by topical application of pinkeye sprays, antibiotic ointments or an injection of penicillin directly into the conjunctiva. Speak to us if you think your animals may be affected by pinkeye and you need help controlling it.

## Are you ready for weaning?

Weaning can be a major source of stress for lambs which can knock their growth. Follow these tips by SAC's Kirsten Williams to ensure a worry free weaning period:

- Time it right. Weaning should occur when lamb growth is being limited by one of three things: ewe condition, supply of forage or lamb performance. If any of the following are true, it's time to wean your lambs.
  - Lambs growing less than 150 grams/day
  - Grass swards less than 4cm long
  - Ewes dropping body condition
- Remove the ewes from the lambs and leave the lambs in the same field to reduce stress on the lambs. They'll already know where to drink and shelter.
- Use your best grazing for lambs. Plan ahead to ensure there's plenty of grass in these fields prior to weaning. Use your next best fields for lean ewes. If you have a lot of lean ewes, contact us to arrange an investigation.

## Welcome Back, Lorna!

Our lovely Lorna is back from maternity leave this month, after 11 months off with beautiful baby Jasmine. We're thrilled to have her back. Make sure to say hi when you're next in (and forgive her for any baby-brain mishaps?!)

## Vaccines

Some vaccine supplies continue to be turbulent. Please give the surgery a ring for your vaccines and we can advise you on what is available or when it will become available. We will do our best to supply what you need.

Vaccines to consider at this time of year include Sheep abortion vaccines, Heptavac-P plus, Bravoxin 10/Covexin 10 and Footrot vaccine for sheep.