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SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

FOOTBATHING SHEEP – a recent study has raised some interesting questions after it found that using a glutaraldehyde-based footbath led to a transient 10-fold decrease in the bacterial *diversity* of the foot, but a **10-fold increase in the relative abundance of *D. nodosus*** (the causative agent of footrot and strip/scald). The bacterial diversity returned to baseline levels less than 7 days after treatment (Marshall *et al.*, 2022).

The study concludes that the routine use of these footbaths is not recommended, as they are ineffective at reducing the load of *D. nodosus*, and may actually make the situation worse.

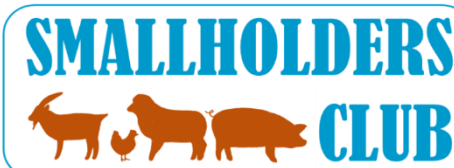
It should be noted however that only 6 ewes were sampled in the study (a VERY small sample size), and results may also vary between ewes and lambs. We (North Park) are therefore cautious in advocating such a blanket disregard for footbaths as suggested by the study's authors, without further work being conducted.

Either way, there is plenty of evidence demonstrating that if footbathing is done badly (dirty yards, heavily soiled baths, etc) it can definitely make the situation worse, so the use of footbaths should always be carefully considered.

AN AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) PREVENTION ZONE has been imposed on Cornwall, Devon and West Somerset from 31st August. This is not a housing order, but a legal requirement for all poultry and bird keepers to comply with minimum biosecurity measures. Details of the measures can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

In short, they consist of minimising contact with other bird populations e.g., minimising visitors and keeping records of necessary visits, using appropriate PPE and disinfectants, keeping food and water inside runs, implementing effective vermin control etc.



Thank you for the great turn out at the first Small Holders Club meeting.

We are preparing the content for the next talk on gut-worms, date soon to be announced. Joining the Small Holders Club allows access to a sharing group for vaccines and other bulk products, as well as discounts for other services and workshops run by the practice. If you would like more information, or to sign up for membership, please contact the practice by phone or email shc@northparkvets.co.uk.

Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs)

Congratulations to Ashleigh Hutchings who has just passed her ATT training! She will now be undertaking TB tests on her own, joining Charmaine Quinlan who has now been TB testing with us for 12 months. Julie Rooks has also just started her ATT training with North Park.

ATTs are crucial for the delivery of TB testing in England, especially following the introduction of 6-monthly statutory TB testing for most herds within the high-risk area (HRA), as there are simply not enough vets in the country to do this work. The HRA extends from Cornwall to Cheshire through the West-Midlands. Where ever possible we will rotate your tests between ATTs and vets, but we cannot always provide a vet. We have had nothing but excellent feedback regarding the ATT team, which are now a crucial component of our team at North Park Vets.