



DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

**SALMONELLA OUTBREAKS & ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**

Why all the fuss about antibiotic resistance and the responsible use of antibiotics? This is why. The table to the right shows the culture and sensitivity report from a case of calf scour isolated from a farm recently. It shows that the cause of the scour is salmonella and that it is worryingly resistant to 6 of the 9 antibiotics tested in the lab. It gets worse, as 1 of the 3 antibiotics that it is sensitive to (enrofloxacin) is classified as a highest priority critically important antibiotic (HP-CIA), which should only be used as an absolute last resort due to their importance in human health.

A = *Salmonella* spp.

Growth	+++
Amoxicillin/Clavulanic acid	R
Apramycin	R
Enrofloxacin	S
Oxytetracycline	R
Neomycin	S
Penicillin G	R
Trimethoprim/Sulphamethoxazole	S
Spectinomycin	R
Amoxicillin	R



Salmonella is a zoonotic disease, meaning it can pass between animals and humans.

Entry onto farm is typically caused by wild

birds, rodents, or the purchase of an infected cow/calf onto the farm.

Unpasteurised milk poses a risk of transmission, as does close contact in the calf shed. Hygiene and cleanliness, including regularly washing hands and disinfecting equipment between animals (particularly when feeding different calves) is key to stopping the spread, together with vaccination of the herd with Bovivac-S (in the case of salmonella dublin and salmonella typhimurium).

Salmonella can cause diarrhoea, abortions, poor fertility, milk drop, mastitis, generalised sick cows and calves, be a primary cause of pneumonia (we have seen a couple of cases this autumn, including this photo, taken at an on-farm post-mortem), and ultimately lead to death in some cases (especially in calves). Diagnosis is key!

**KNOCK-DOWN CALF DISBUDDING SERVICE: SAVE TIME & LABOUR!**

Throughout COVID-19 lockdowns, we increasingly sedated calves when disbudding to facilitate the 2m+ rule that was in place at this time. Sedation removes the requirement for farm staff to hold the calf whilst the vet, or another member of your staff, performs the disbudding procedure. This was well received by clients and also significantly reduces stress for the calves. As a result, we have decided to offer this widely as a routine option.

A pen of calves can be sedated quietly by the vet and then one-by-one are disbudded as normal (including the use of local anaesthesia and NSAID pain relief). The added bonus to this method is that the vet can do this on their own, without the need for assistance, therefore saving you valuable time and labour! There is a small risk associated with sedation, but at the dosages required, complications are very rare. Please speak to Elske, Harm or Jonathan for more information.

**LAMBING TIME IS APPROACHING!**

Some of you will start lambing in the next few weeks, so now is the time to make sure you are stocked up before the Christmas opening hours. If you have a bulk order, please give us **24-hours notice** to prepare it for you (ideally longer), especially as there have been recent supply problems with several products which are likely to continue.

**TB ADVISORY SERVICE (TBAS):** Some of you will remember and have carried out TBAS visits, which offer bespoke advice relating to TB infections on farm. TBAS advisors are able to give advice to reduce the risk of TB infections on TB-free farms, to discuss options when you are experiencing a breakdown, and to provide control measures to break the cycle of re-infection in ongoing and new breakdowns.

More than 2100 visits have been carried out over the last 4 years throughout the country and 96% of farmers found the advice given very useful. The top five recommendations that were given were:

- Use raised water troughs, inaccessible to badgers;
- Use badger-proof feed troughs;
- Install wildlife cameras to monitor badger activity;
- Isolate badger setts and runs from cattle to prevent direct contact;
- Checking farm history on [ibTB.co.uk](http://ibTB.co.uk) prior to purchasing animals.

**FREE TB Advice** Fed up of playing the TB lottery?



TBAS will continue in 2022 in a new format and will continue to offer free, practical, on farm veterinary advice with one of our farm vets. An initial visit will be carried out, with a follow-up, on farm, visit 6-9 months later, where the progress of recommendations will be assessed. In addition, badger sett surveys can be carried out where needed.

**This service will be available to everyone that keeps cattle, camelids, deer, goats, pigs and/or sheep** (even if you have already had a visit in the past). Please contact our TB line at 01837 82327 (option 3) or TBAS direct on 01306 779410 or [info@tbas.org.uk](mailto:info@tbas.org.uk) for advice or more information.



**We are pleased to announce that we are re-starting our Sheep Health Action Group in January**, after an 18-month pause due to covid. Prior to the enforced pause, our group had been running successfully for 4 years with 16 farms. All the members saw a huge value in the group and a positive return upon their investment. The group is designed for commercial flocks and the current members flock size range from 150 ewes to several thousand.

We meet four times a year to discuss seasonal and relevant topics, often including farm walks, and undertake benchmarking to drive discussion and improvements, but the greatest value is in the discussion between the members, sharing their knowledge and experiences to benefit all. The group has a monthly fee of £20+ VAT and includes several other benefits. **To join, or if you would like more information, please speak to Elske or Jonathan.**

Following the success of the Sheep Health Action Group, we are also going to run a **beef suckler discussion group**, with a focus on increasing sustainable productivity (and ultimately profitability) through investing in health and performance. This will be crucial as changes to CAP and government policies begin to take effect. Please contact Jonathan if you are interested in joining.

**REDWATER SURVEY** – One of the vets at Starcross is undertaking a Master's degree, focussing on redwater fever. She would be grateful if you complete this survey to assist with this important work, the findings of which will benefit all of us.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5oxlQxbpGciKj8\\_B9c0Cp1EiT8BaTiCKDXUS7ulOy7cwQ3A/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd5oxlQxbpGciKj8_B9c0Cp1EiT8BaTiCKDXUS7ulOy7cwQ3A/viewform)



#### **FESTIVE PERIOD OPENING HOURS**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December – all branches closing at 15:30

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> December – Closed

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> December – all branches closing at 15:30

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January – Closed

***As always, 24-hour emergency cover is provided.***



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