



## FARM NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS



We are doing a joint **sustainability meeting** with Castle Vets in the second half of September. This meeting will be **on farm** and cover improving soil health, sustainable endo- and ectoparasite control, and improving biodiversity on farm. The date and location will be announced in next month's newsletter.

**SHC MEETING; “First aid on the smallholding”** will be held by Rya, Clare and Equus vets at 6.15pm on Tuesday 13th August 2024 at North Tawton Rugby Club, EX20 2ED. Please RSVP via telephone or email [shc@northparkvets.co.uk](mailto:shc@northparkvets.co.uk) to reserve your place. Free to SHC members.

**BEEF MEETING; “Practical control of worms and fluke workshop”** will take place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024. There will be vet-led discussion from Amy and Jamie, joined by Norbrook representative Paul Uglow, followed by a **farm walk** near Okehampton. Booking essential and small fee of £5 to include refreshments. Free to Suckler Club members.

**SHOWTIME** NPVG have a **new show trailer** and **new location at Okehampton show**- opposite the member's marquee, where we are again the **duty vets** for the event. A selection of our vets, nurses, reception and support team will be pleased to see you for **cakes and beverages**, with **games** at the ready and a **raffle draw** in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

**Okehampton 08/08/24 - Chagford 15/08/24 - Holsworthy 22/08/24**

**CHICKEN NATIONAL FLOCK REGISTRATION** All poultry owners, including small backyard flocks of chickens or any other poultry species, pigeons, and birds of prey are required to **register their birds via the government website before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024**. This is to aid management of disease outbreak, including avian influenza. Information will be used to identify bird keepers in the event of high disease risk, allow more effective surveillance and reduce infectious spread. For more information, visit [www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-help-protect-poultry-industry-from-bird-flu](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-to-help-protect-poultry-industry-from-bird-flu)



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## CASE OF THE MONTH: 5-LEGGED CALF



This lovely heifer calf was born with a quirk; Joined to the **back of her neck was a 5th limb**, complete with joints and a hoof. This type of deformity is likely the result of a **twin that died in-utero** and was partly reabsorbed. Other deformities can have infectious or genetic causes and may not be suitable candidates for surgery. As this heifer appeared healthy in all other ways when examined,

the decision was made to **surgically remove** the limb so that calf wouldn't be affected by it as she grew. She was anaesthetised and the leg was carefully dissected, avoiding damage to the spine. The heifer **recovered from the procedure quickly** and went back to the farm that afternoon. Since then, her stitches have been removed, the wound has healed, and she's been **growing well thanks to the farmer's care**.

**TB Advisory Service (TBAS) at NPVG Rya** has now joined Elske and Harm as a member of TBAS. We offer a **free biosecurity visit and 6-month follow-up**, covering risks to your herd from other cattle and wildlife. Please get in touch with our farm team for more details.

### NEW ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PATHWAY (AHWP) FEATURE

All beef and sheep farms eligible for AHWP can now apply for "**Endemics**" as an add on with further disease-focused grants, within 10 months of the AHWP visit and report. AHWP is a **government scheme with vet involvement**, applicable to all sheep flocks of 21 or more, and beef or dairy cattle herds with 11 or more animals. Conditions of the funding require **drench efficacy testing for worms in sheep flocks** and **BVD sentinel (blood) testing for beef herds**. Endemics involves additional funding of between £215-£837 to go towards **BVD management** for beef herds, and further funding of £639 for a range of **sheep flock syndromes** including **ewe reproduction, lamb performance and lameness**. Your vet will help guide decision making in this process. Endemics is **not yet available for dairy herds** and one species can be applied for per year. For more information, please visit [www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-health-and-welfare-pathway) or contact the practice to speak with a vet.



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