



**FARM NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2024**

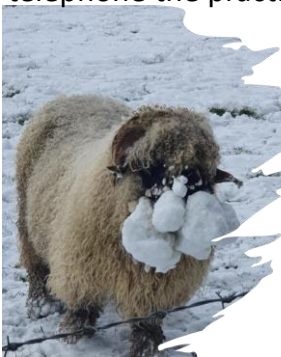
**CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS** From all our merry staff, have a brilliant Christmas and New Year’s period! As always, we provide 24/7 emergency care with our experienced farm vets. Our opening hours over the holiday period are as follows;

Date	Event	Opening hours
Tuesday 24th December	Christmas Eve	8.30am-3.30pm
Wednesday 25th December	Christmas Day	CLOSED
Thursday 26th December	Boxing Day	CLOSED
Tuesday 31st December	New Years Eve	8.30am-3.30pm
Wednesday 1st January	New Years Day	CLOSED

Normal service will resume from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025. Please be organised with any **medicine or equipment orders** in the early part of December to avoid disappointment. Likewise, with any health status testing that your heard or flock is due, there will be various lab closures that may cause disruption. Please contact your **health scheme providers** for more information.

**NPVG Lambing course** will be running again on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February, joined by our newly developed **calving course** as part of the Beef Herd Health Group, also applicable to dairy cattle, running in January. Both courses are run by vets and will discuss pre-birth management, tips and techniques for a smooth calving and lambing period and first aid and continued support for newborns and mothers. There will be up to date veterinary advice, time for group discussion and practical elements for both courses. From beginners to experienced stockmen, there will be useful information for all to help with this critical time of year. Light refreshments provided.

**Deciphering drugs- Red Tractor approved medicine course.** We have had recent interest in running the use of veterinary medicines course again. We are looking to set date(s) based on requirement. If you would like to be on the waiting list, please telephone the practice or email [info@northparkvets.co.uk](mailto:info@northparkvets.co.uk).



**“Winter on the Smallholding”** is the title for the Christmas SHC meeting. All members invited, new members welcome for a taster session. We will discuss a cocktail of diseases and conditions to monitor at this time of year, including; fluke management, nutrition leading up to lambing, pneumonia in pigs and calves, and lameness over the winter period. The meeting will be held at the North Tawton Practice on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm, mince pies and hot drink refreshments will be provided. Please contact the practice or email [shc@northparkvets.co.uk](mailto:shc@northparkvets.co.uk) to book your place. £15 fee to non-members.



“Like” **North Park Veterinary Farm** and follow our Instagram [@northparkfarmvets](https://www.instagram.com/northparkfarmvets) for regular updates

## Christmas Quiz in aid of Farming Community Network

At each branch, there are sheets of farm-related quiz questions for completion and entry to a prize draw. Entry is £1, all proceeds donated to FCN, with the chance to win a hamper of useful goodies. To take part remotely, we can email you a copy of the quiz. Winner announced on 20<sup>th</sup> December.

### SUBFERTILITY IN CATTLE AND WEAK CALVES?

There are many issues that cause reduced fertility in cattle, infectious and non-infectious. When using a **bull**, all breeding females are dependent on his **fertility, overall health and ability to work**. Fertility testing bulls before they are required to work is prudent, as an immediate back-up plan isn't always in place. In the **female breeding stock**, fertility can be largely affected by **genetics, infectious disease status and nutritional factors**. This year, we have seen a high number of herds being diagnosed with **low iodine** when investigated for lower than expected calving rates and/ or weak and stillborn calves. We have also had several **low or marginal selenium results in heifers** and 2<sup>nd</sup> calving cows. This may show as **younger females not getting in calf quickly or at all**. The best time of year to test is when the animals are within a couple of months of calving. **Blood sampling** can be done at the same time as TB testing or in conjunction with **Animal Health and Welfare Pathway- a grant scheme** for disease testing that is available to all cattle farms with more than 21 head. Please call to discuss fertility issues in your herd with a member of our farm team.

### CHANGE TO FARM DISPENSING

As you have seen in our separate bulletin, our **prescribing rules are amended from 1<sup>st</sup> December**. All labels of prescribed medication must state clearly **which animal** the treatment is for. This means we will be asking for the eartag/ freezebrand number or the identification of a group, depending on the medication. To speed up the dispensing process, we request that we can have this information when an order is being placed. Since this will take some time for all us to get used to, we kindly request patience with collecting dispenses. Examples are shown below.

North Park Veterinary Group Limited  
64 Fore Street, North Tawton. 01837 82327  
28/11/24 : EP : Ovine : Ovine

Alamycin 300 (300mg/ml) 100ml : 1 Bottle (100 ml)

Exp: Batch No:

Ewe lambs in tractor field: 1ml/10kg im -5-6d action; sheep meat 28D.  
1ml/15kg IM 3-4d action; sheep meat 28D

FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

North Park Veterinary Group Limited  
64 Fore Street, North Tawton. 01837 82327  
28/11/24 : EP : Bovine : Bovine

Betamox Inj Rtu 100ml : 1 Bottle (100 ml)

Exp: Batch No:

Cow 2600 swollen foot  
1ml/20kg im 3-5d. Bovine Milk 24h; Meat 18d.

FOR ANIMAL TREATMENT ONLY KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

**We are excited to announce that we are now stocking Nobacz Navel.** This is an alternative product to iodine, free from antibiotics, and is designed for dressing navels and disinfecting ear tags. It has been brought to market following recent supply issues with iodine and significant price-hikes when available.

NoBacz Navel underwent a rigorous **randomised control trial** during the 2024 lambing season on **11 flocks** involving **3420 sets of twins (6840 lambs)**. One twin was given iodine, the other twin NoBacz Navel. There was a **21% reduction in mortality in the NoBacz Navel group**. This equated to 17 more lambs alive per 1000 born at 8 weeks. These lambs also averaged 230g extra bodyweight at 8 weeks. The product can be used in calves as well as lambs, and contains a bitter tasting ingredient to prevent the dam licking off the product, thus ensuring rapid drying of the navel.

NoBacz Navel retails at £30+VAT/500ml bottle, which can treat 200 lambs. We have an **introductory offer** of a free non-return dip cup with your first purchase. For any further information, please speak to any of the farm vets. Further details of the product including the trial work, are attached separately.



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