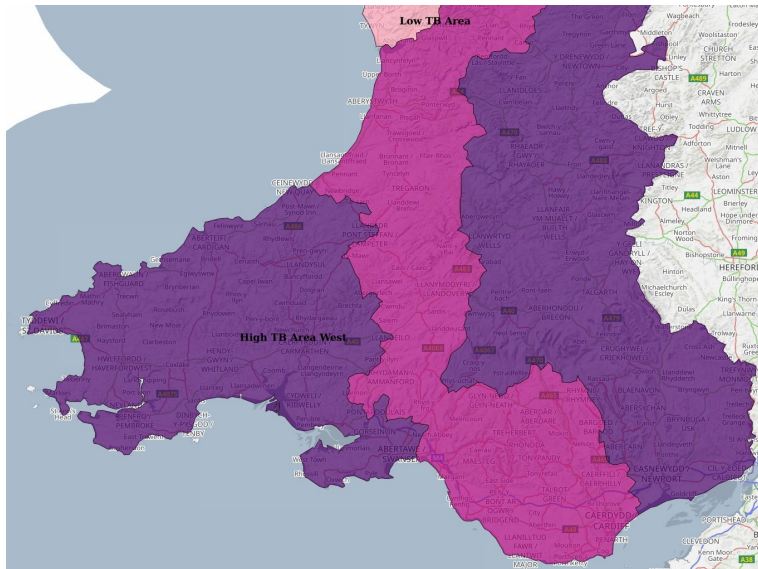


Hello and welcome to the December newsletter. Christmas is coming!!

I hope those of you who went to the Winter Fair enjoyed yourselves in the winter sunshine. Lots of our clients took part. Congratulations to all who competed and particularly to those who did well.

We've talked about this a few times already this year - the seasons have not been true to form this year – just to warn you that we are starting to see positive liver fluke results now, similar to last year. You would not have always thought about acute fluke so late in the year, but keep it in mind now.

Reminder about Bluetongue – there have now been 4 further cases confirmed on premises in Kent. For more information including how to spot and report the disease is available on www.gov.uk/bluetongue.



From 1st February 2024 there are changes to the TB policy. There are two main changes that will affect our clients – firstly, where there are reactors or inconclusives on your farm, feeding of untreated milk to calves or any other mammals is automatically prohibited. This does not apply to suckling calves. Secondly, all bovines that move into herds in the intermediate TB areas (our patch) from the high TB area of Wales, the HRA of England and from Northern Ireland will need to be post movement tested, 60-120 days after their arrival. Animals are not allowed to leave the premises until they have received this test, except in certain limited circumstance such as going to slaughter. APHA will write to keepers each month to inform them which cattle need a TB test. It is the keeper's responsibility to book and pay for the post movement test. You should all receive a letter from Welsh Government to inform you of these changes.

Map of TB risk areas in Wales: pink is intermediate risk & purple is high risk. Access at Wales TB Regionalisation Map | GOV.WALES

All that remains is to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you for your custom in 2023 and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Mary

Calving and Lambing Data

This calving and lambing season we are going to be doing an in practice data collection/audit. The plan is for the vets to complete a questionnaire after each calving/lambing with information on why the animal needed assistance, what medications they were given and the outcome of those interventions. The current plan is to follow up each call with a phone call/text to check in on the patients about two weeks after the visit.

Directors:

Mary Walters

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As is becoming the routine with farm work data collection and analysis is key. We thought it would be good to do our own in-house data collection and analysis, so watch this space next Spring for a report of our findings!

Farming Connect Funding

Farming Connect are offering some Festive cheer with opportunities for partially funded veterinary advice. These can be carried out one to one (70% funded) or as a group (90% funded). The process has changed significantly from the previous vouchers towards lab and sampling fees. The new funding provides time for farm vets to discuss and investigate a specific issue upon an individual farm or on a group of farms.

For example if an individual farm was struggling with poor scanning results in their cows, funding could be available to help investigate this. With potential investigations into infectious disease, bull fertility and cow nutrition. In a nutshell taking a holistic approach to a problem, with time for discussion, data analysis and sampling. Because of this new approach the funding needs to be pre-approved by Farming Connect with an estimate and application form sent to them in advance.

Feel free to call the office to discuss options. Currently we have carried out mastitis control plans, looked into milk productivity and Russell is keen to carry out mineral audits as part of a discussion group.

Vitamin D in Alpacas

A short note to remind our alpaca clients that we strongly recommend alpacas to receive vitamin D supplementation over the winter period. This is because unfortunately the Welsh weather and elevation means Welsh alpacas get less sun on their backs. We stock injectable forms of vitamin D and recommend two injections over the winter period.

This month's author is Tom Searle, who's interests are advanced small ruminant breeding and spending time with his new little girl.



Meet our new vet Sarah Woollatt

BVetMed PGCert MRCVS

Sarah has worked in farm animal practice ever since she qualified from the Royal Veterinary College (London) in 2017. She found her love for farming and the countryside whilst at university, spending a lot more time lambing and calving than was strictly needed... After graduating, she migrated west (wherever more cows were) and worked across Hampshire, Wiltshire and then Somerset before moving to Cardiff in 2023. Sarah proudly claims half-Welsh roots and is enjoying being closer to loved ones in South Wales now. On the veterinary side, she is nearly finished with a cattle certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice and has particular interests in infectious diseases, public health and teaching. When off-duty, Sarah likes letting off steam on the hockey pitch, hiking, biking and cooking.

You will find Sarah out and about working on Tuesdays, Fridays, every other Thursday, plus on call nights and weekends.



Christmas opening hours

Please get medicine orders in by 1pm on Friday 22nd December & Friday 29th December as we will be closing early on these days.

22nd December early closing

23rd December emergencies only

24th December emergencies only

25th December emergencies only

26th December emergencies only

27th December normal opening hours



29th December early closing

30th December emergencies only

31st December emergencies only

1st January emergencies only

2nd January normal opening hours

Office opening hours

Monday – Friday (Except Bank Holidays)

8.30am - 5.30pm

Emergency out of hours service

Weeknights 5.30pm - 8.30am

Saturday & Sunday all day