



Coombefield Veterinary Hospital Farm Newsletter November 2015

TB TESTING

Since May this year the administration on behalf of APHA TB work has been given to XL Farmcare who sub-contract the work out to local veterinary practices. As a result of this we are getting a 40% reduction in payment for doing the TB testing with no mileage allowance as well as a lot more paperwork and auditing.

Some of the new procedures will not affect you at all but some will. Practices are being spot checked without notice and this can be done at any time during the TB test either on the first or the second day. The following criteria needs to be met:

- We must disinfect at the start and end of the test with the right concentration of disinfectant
- We need good lighting to read ear tags and callipers, this is particularly important for very early morning testing.
- We need to check the animal's ear tag numbers on the first and **SECOND** day of testing.
- If a reactor or second time inconclusive reactor is found the animal must be ear tagged. We have been asked to inform farmers to spray with orange marker spray along the cows' backs. This is for clear identification when they are sent for slaughter. To help with this we are carrying orange marker sprays.
- Isolation of reactors and inconclusive reactors are very important as this can determine when the next test is due and can help reduce the spread of TB in the herd. Recently we have had a couple of outbreaks involving a very contagious strain of TB in heifers which has been due to cow to cow spread so isolation is crucial.
- We have to submit the results of a TB test within 24 hours otherwise we get financially penalised. It is really important that all livestock movements are up to date on BCMS so that all animals are accounted for when we submit the paper work on line. If animals have been moved off the farm or have died less than a week prior to the first TB visit the farmer should contact BCMS via phone to inform them.



www.facebook.com/coombefieldfarmdepartment

We have a new Facebook page for the Farm Department so please have a look and give us comments. If you would like us to post anything then let us know. One request is to run a calendar similar to one we have done for the Equine page where Farmers can post a photo of their farm animal and the photo with the most likes gets to be the photo for that month.

FARM DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

If you would like to speak to a Farm vet or arrange a visit, please call 01297 630515

Medicines can be requested via email or by telephone

Email: farm@axvets.co.uk