

# November 2019

## Vaccinate before it's too late!

There is more pressure than ever on farmers to reduce their use of antibiotics and to demonstrate responsible use. Environment and husbandry are all critical roles in reducing pneumonia and scours. Good colostrum management and clean dry bedding are crucial. Housing ventilation can be tricky to achieve, although sometimes it can be done with a sledgehammer!

Vaccination is a tool that *must* be considered on every farm. Vaccination stimulates the animals immunity and usually the second dose in a primary course makes the immunity even stronger than the first injection. There are so many vaccines available it can be daunting to know which one would be suitable.

In an ideal world we would post mortem an animal that has died and get a diagnosis. We would then pick a vaccine based on this diagnosis and the age the animal first became ill to treat the rest of the group and continue this for new groups. Unfortunately, particularly with pneumonia cases, the cause of death for the animal could be a secondary pathogen such as a Pasteurella and the virus that was responsible for the initial illness cannot be identified by the time it has died. This can be very frustrating.



Paired blood samples are two blood samples taken from the animal three weeks apart to identify which antibodies in their system has risen in response to a virus that is challenging them. This can sometimes be more useful than a post mortem but it can be annoying to wait three weeks between taking the samples.

If we have not identified the cause of the disease another approach would be to start on a vaccine decided by you and your vet which 'best fits' the farm. By using this approach the vaccine can be started before any problems are seen.

By seeing how well the animals do, compared to the year before, will help

decide whether the vaccine chosen was the correct one and this can be diagnostic in its own right.

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## DATE FOR THE DIARY

**Wednesday  
13th November**

Milksure Meeting  
11am—2pm

**Wednesday  
27th November**

Red Tractor Meeting  
12pm-2pm

Please contact the office  
for further details

## FERTILITY RATES!!

Well we know our fertility, breeding advice is good but I didn't realise it was that good!

As some of you have already heard Lucy, Lottie and Nicky are all pregnant. Congratulations.

Don't worry about vets on the ground because we are very fortunate to have Sam starting this month before Lucy goes on maternity late December. We are also very excited to welcome back Candice who was with us earlier in the year and become a very valued member of the team so quickly it felt like she had been with us for ever. She will be joining us for a minimum of 6 months from the beginning of January.

## Farmers Weekly Awards

Huge congratulations to Will and Kate Frost and all their team at Forde Grange Farm for winning **Farmers Weekly 'Dairy Farmer of the Year 2019'**.

A very well deserved win and an amazing achievement in such a massive category.

First Goat Farm to win the award.



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