



**CASTLE  
VETERINARY  
GROUP**

# Farm newsletter

Tel: 01566 772371 [www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk](http://www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk)



**March 2023**

## **Charity Open Farm event**

Vet Sarah is hosting an open farm event in aid of the Cornish Stroke Rehabilitation Team – please spread the word – all welcome!

**FOR CORNWALLS STROKE REHABILITATION TEAM.**

**OPEN FARM**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING EWE!

**FERRY FARM**  
HAREWOOD, CALSTOCK  
PL18 9SQ  
SIGNS FROM ST. ANDREWS CHURCH

**SATURDAY**  
**18 MARCH**  
10AM - 4PM

**£5 per person, under 3's go free**  
Refreshments Included

VISIT OUR SHEEP MATERNITY BARN -  
YOU MAY BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SEE A LAMB BORN!

11AM AND 2PM, FARM WALK AND TALK

FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND RAFFLE

All funds and donations raised will go to the  
Stroke Rehabilitation Team of the Cornwall Partnership Foundation Trust,  
in recognition and thanks of their support to us.

PLEASE WEAR CLEAN WELLIES AND USE DISINFECTANT FOOT DIP PROVIDED  
NO DOGS | FIELD PARKING (SHORT WALK)

## May bank holidays – book your TB test now!

Due to several extra bank holidays across April and May we are quickly booking up our TB testing capacity. If you have received a letter or think you will be due to test in these months, please ring us to arrange your test.

## Animal Health and Welfare Pathway – NOW LIVE

DEFRA's Animal Health and Welfare Pathway is now open to applications. Currently you can only apply for funding for **one species per farm**. Once granted, you have six months to use the funding and provide proof back to DEFRA of your participation in the pathway.

[www.apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk](http://www.apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk)

We have been warned over the last few days that your 'agreement number' may take several weeks to months to come through, due to capacity issues at DEFRA and high levels of interest.

**However, we advise you apply now, to join the waiting list.**

*Once you have your agreement number, please let us know so we can organise the visit(s) you will need so you can get the most out of this funding.*

This will include completing priority testing in your herd/flock, which differs between species:

- For cattle – BVD screening
- For sheep – worm reduction dung testing pre and post worming
- For pigs – PRSV investigations

The pathway also requires completion of a 'review' with us. This is a great opportunity for you to have fully funded in-depth discussion(s) with us and potentially further investigation into any areas of concern you might have.

The value of the funding varies between which animal type you register over those six months:

- Sheep - £436 (you must own 21 or more sheep)
- Beef - £522 (you must own 11 or more cattle)
- Dairy - £372
- Pigs - £684 (you must own 51 or more pigs)

## Journey Along The Annual Health and Welfare Review...





## A Busy Few Months!

### An update on Calving:

#### Key Points:

- The benefits of a good calving gate highlighted
- Calves should drink 10% of their body weight within 6 hours of birth
- The correct time to intervene at calving varies hugely depending on the situation and parity of the animal (heifer/cow)



### Discussions over Sheep abortion with CEVA:

#### Key Points:

- Fifty-five farmers attending, highlighting how important and common this issue is!
- Key to isolate aborted ewes
- Further investigation required if 4% abort overall/ more than 2 in 2 days
- Bring the foetus and placenta in within 24hrs
- You can vaccinate against enzootic (*chlamydial*) and toxoplasmosis abortion
- Hygiene is key in reducing risk



### Teaching Duchy College Apprentices:

#### Key Points:

- Encouraging to see the next generation of farmers to consider how to improve stock fertility
- Great engagement with guided dissection of PM uteruses
- Real enthusiasm over finding different ways to improve herd/flock fertility



### Ewe nutrition through lambing with Harpers:

#### Key Points:

- Use your feed company to analyse your forage each year
- Access to feed is as important as *what* you feed
- Using ewe body condition scoring *in combination* with expected number of lambs to group stock

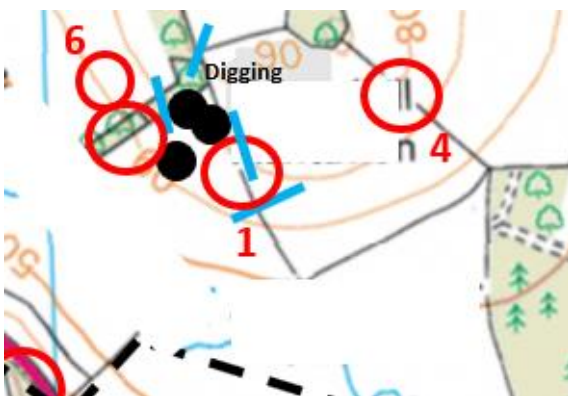


## Orf vaccine change

Please be advised that '**Scabivax**' is now no longer being manufactured. Our remaining stock expires at the end of this month (March). However, after this point we will be able to supply you with a suitable alternative called '**Scabiguard**' which acts in the same way! Please give us a ring with any queries regarding this 'new' vaccine and its use in your flock.

## TB Advisory Visits

Nationwide, 350 vets have been trained as DEFRA TB advisors. We are proud to have several TBAS advisors at Castle vets and would encourage you to take advantage of the expertise now on offer. These visits are now open to anyone with TB-susceptible stock (including cattle, sheep, deer, alpacas and llamas).



DEFRA are funding trained vets to come out onto farm and go through your TB risks, perform badger set surveys if eligible and discuss measures that could be put in place to reduce your likelihood of a large TB breakdown. For those of you that haven't already, we would strongly advise you take up this free support.

