



# Tern Vets Ltd

MAY 2016

PUTTING CARE INTO PRACTICE

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## OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri 08.30-18.00

Sat 08.30-12.00

Your dedicated farm  
team available 24/7



## UPDATE

Those of you who are testing for Johnes disease using the NMR HerdWise program will notice a change in the classifications from May 2016. The HerdWise program uses a traffic light system which is based on a large amount of evidence from research carried out in Denmark, and used throughout the world for quarterly testing programmes. A "red cow" is a high risk Johnes animal with two test positives in the last year, "amber cows" are medium risk cows with a single test positive and "green cows" are low risk animals which repeatedly test negative. A cow's Johnes disease classification is based on her last 4 test results which means her classification changes over time. Historically this has meant that a red cow could then revert to amber or green if she has two negative tests.

There is now a large body of evidence to say that if a cow has EVER been classified as red she should be treated as an infected cow for her lifetime, even if she has subsequent negative tests; "ONCE A RED, ALWAYS A RED". This means farmers using the HerdWise program may notice a change in the number of "red" cows on their next HerdWise report, as the system upgrade will pick up historic test positive animals from the past that may have reverted to amber or green. Remember - you will need a personalised Johnes Disease Management Plan in place for 1st October 2016 so get in touch with us to get this in place.

**For any of you who haven't done any Johnes testing and are unsure of your herds status, NML - the lab who do the testing on behalf of NMR and CIS, are offering a "30 cow challenge" at the minute - antibody test 30 of your oldest cows as a one off and if they are all negative they will pay for the cost of testing! Ask for an application form from Michelle/Tina on reception at Market Drayton.**

## Blue Tongue

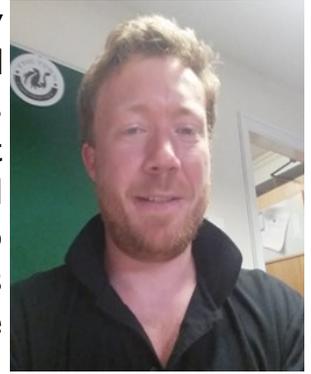
DEFRA is urging farmers to be vigilant for signs of bluetongue this spring and summer, and report any suspicion of the disease, following the recent publication of a risk assessment suggesting that the UK could be at risk of an outbreak this year. The virus is currently circulating in France, and may arrive in the UK via infected midges being blown across the channel. Current estimates put the risk of a disease landing here in a cool spring at 5-10%, later in the summer at 33-60%, and at 60-80% by the end of the summer. It's very uncertain at the moment, though, and risk estimates will change as the year goes on and weather patterns etc become clearer. The blue tongue vaccine can be given to sheep from 1 month of age (only one dose needed), and to cattle from 6 weeks old (two doses needed, 3 weeks apart). The vaccine gives immunity from 3 weeks after immunisation which then lasts for 6 months.

Do speak to one of the vets for more information, or if you'd like to chat over whether vaccination is the right choice for you this year.



## OFFICE NEWS

We said our farewells to Alex and Jenny at the end of April - Jenny is off to pastures new and Alex is looking forward to a well-earned rest before her baby arrives in June. Paula is now working four days a week, and we welcome Matt to the farm animal team. Matt graduated alongside Tom in 2014 from the University of Bristol and has worked in large animal practice down in Pembrokeshire for two years before joining our team. His particular interests are mastitis and parasitology along with playing rugby and getting out on his bike as often as possible.



## DRUGS UPDATE

### Velactis



CEVA Animal Health have launched “Velactis” - a novel injectable drug to stop milk production quickly in cows still producing high volumes of milk at the end of lactation. It is injected into the muscle immediately after the last milking and is designed to quickly reduce milk production, reduce milk leakage and help reduce new mastitis infections picked up in the dry period. Recent research suggests that cows should ideally be giving less than 10 litres at drying off, and must be giving less than 15 litres or the risk increases for that cow to pick up a new infection during the dry period. The old fashioned way of reducing milk yield coming up to drying off was to put the cow onto straw and water for 48 hours before drying off. Either way, make sure you have a plan in place to minimise the number of cows giving too much milk at drying off.

### Startvac

Startvac is a mastitis vaccine from HIPRA which protects against *Staph. aureus*, coagulase negative Staphs (CNS) & *E. coli*. Studies have shown it can decrease the number of cases of clinical mastitis caused by *Staph. aureus* and reduce the severity of toxic *E. coli* mastitis. Cows need 3 doses of the vaccine (45 days pre-calving, 10 days pre-calving and 52 days after calving). Obviously this can be tricky to achieve on most all year round calving units, so there is a rolling vaccine protocol or “3.3.3”: inject on day 0, 3 weeks later, 3 months later and then every 3 months thereafter.

HIPRA are the first drug company offering a “satisfaction guarantee” for Startvac - they calculate your annual financial losses due to mastitis before you start and if you don't get double your investment back in increased yields/quality/health in the first 12 months they will give you your money back.

Vaccines will never be the standalone cure-all for mastitis, but in some herds Startvac could play a role in reducing number of *Staph. aureus* mastitis cases, or for reducing the severity of toxic *E. coli* cases. Managing udder health is always going to be complicated, and patterns of mastitis will change over time - speak to us if you need help getting a handle on how many cases of mastitis you are having, when they are happening throughout lactation, and how well your antibiotic treatments are working.