



[info@northparkvets.co.uk](mailto:info@northparkvets.co.uk)

**NORTH TAWTON**  
Tel: 01837 82327  
**OKEHAMPTON**  
Tel: 01837 658777  
**HATHERLEIGH**  
Tel: 01837 810455



## FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

**NEW LOOK BILLS** – we changed to a new practice management system in January and as a result there is a new look to the bills. Please get in touch if you see any obvious errors.

### REMINDER: MAXIMISING EFFICIENCY ON BEEF SUCKLER FARMS

Join us at **7pm on TUESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY at Okehampton Rugby Club** for this **free meeting**. We will discuss:

- improving and maximising fertility, including the importance of a tight calving block and how to achieve this;
- reducing calf losses at birth through pelvic measuring heifers and using EBVs for bull selection;
- reducing neonatal disease;
- ...and much more!

**“Pie and Pint” will be provided so booking is ESSENTIAL** – please book through any of the branch surgeries.

### DRUG SHORTAGES ACROSS ALL FARMING SECTORS

There have recently been several production issues hitting some drugs with the largest market share for their field and these are currently unavailable nationally from all veterinary wholesalers. Where alternatives exist these are also now running out of stock – or have done so already – as the manufacturers are unable to increase production to meet the additional demand. Unfortunately this seems set to continue. We are sorry for the inconvenience this may be causing. We are finding the situation concerning ourselves and are doing all we can through every possible channel to try and source alternatives. A list of affected products is on the reverse side of this page.

### SMALLHOLDER CLUB

North Park Veterinary Group are excited to announce that we are setting up a new club to allow like minded people to meet and share stories/tips and expand their knowledge. Whether you have sheep, pigs, goats, chickens, alpacas or something more exotic we want you to get involved.

For a monthly subscription of £10 +VAT we will provide:

- Half price annual visit and prescription check
- Seasonal meetings at the surgery, with talks/speakers on topics you request (chargeable to non club members)
- Access to vet run courses at a reduced rate, i.e. lambing course.
- Access to a sharing club where you will be able to bulk buy products such as vaccine and parasiticides and split the cost.
- Half price worm egg counts.



There will be an **initial free meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 7pm at North Tawton** which will be about the formation of the new club, the benefits of being a member and we will also run an ‘Ask a Vet’ session. If you would like to attend the meeting please RSVP with your ‘ask a vet’ questions to 01837 82327 or [info@northparkvets.co.uk](mailto:info@northparkvets.co.uk)

Good **TRANSITION MANAGEMENT** of the dairy cow is key to maximising yields and ensuring a healthy animal that will quickly get back in calf and be less likely to develop disease. Fat cows, thin cows and cows carrying twins are all at greater risk of developing ketosis – the disease caused by excessive mobilisation of body fat when cows are in negative energy balance. Correct dry cow feeding to ensure **high dry matter intakes** (whilst keeping a check on the energy density of the feed to prevent weight gain) will reduce the risk of ketosis. It is also important to manage body condition throughout the entire lactation cycle.

For high risk cows though (fat/thin/twins) **Kexxtone** is a bolus that can be given **3-4 weeks prior to calving** to reduce the likelihood of ketosis. Ketosis is linked with retained cleansing, endometritis or “whites”, mastitis, displaced abomasum, significantly reduced milk yields and reduced fertility so prevention really is key! Speak to any of the vets to learn more about Kexxtone or for any information and advice about transition cow management.



### SCOUR IN SUCKLE CALVES

We regularly see outbreaks of scour in suckle calves in the spring, especially when calving indoors. Three of the main causes – **Rotavirus, coronavirus and E. coli** – can be prevented by **vaccinating pregnant cows 12 – 3 weeks ahead of calving** so that the cows produce antibodies against these in their **colostrum**. Ensuring the calf then has colostrum is key – 10% of body weight in the first 6 hours of life.

If you have had these diseases diagnosed on your farm in the past then you need to be thinking of vaccinating **now** to prevent disease. These vaccines can also be used on farms where there has not been a problem in the past as “peace of mind”. **Data shows that the average cost of a scour outbreak on a 100 cow herd with 90 calves born to be £5794** through reduced daily live weight gains, calf mortality and the direct costs of treatment. **On average, vaccination provides a cost benefit of £4225** in the same herd. For more information about preventing calf scour, or if you are experiencing an outbreak, please speak to any of the vets – getting the correct diagnosis is key!

**DRUG SHORTAGES CONTINUED:** We are currently unable to source either **Betamox LA** or **Amoxycare** (our usual long acting amoxicillin antibiotics) due to manufacturing issues. The only available alternative is **Ampfipen LA**. This comes in 80ml plastic bottles and has a **DIFFERENT DOSE - 7.5mls/50kg in muscle for cattle and sheep**. It can be repeated after 48 hours but note the **MEAT WITHDRAWAL is 60 days** – much longer than the others. It is not licensed in animals producing milk for human consumption.

Wholesalers have completely run out of the antibiotic **TMPS** (Duphatrim, Bimotrim, Diatrim and Norodine) which is used for scouring animals and toxic mastitis. We may get the occasional drip feeding of one of these as wholesalers try to import from the continent, however there is no guarantee of this.

**Tetra Delta** mastitis tubes remain unavailable and will be “for the foreseeable future”. This has had a knock on effect to all other mastitis tubes, however we have managed to secure alternatives to provide enough cover against the mastitis bugs for the time being. These may have longer withdrawal times than you would want but unfortunately this is unavoidable.



“Like” **North Park Veterinary Farm** and follow us Instagram **@northparkfarmvets** for regular updates

