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This time of year always has the feel of change – an end in sight to both the frenetic activity of harvest and the equally frenetic summer holidays. The autumn approaches (did we have a summer?) and for us at the George that means Pig Fair.

At the start of each year the team starts to discuss what topics we might be addressing in October. Usually by early summer we have a pretty good idea of who is doing what, and then, round about now, there is a flurry of activity as the final preparations are made.

I look back to our notes from earlier and, this year, some of the proposed topics have made it to the final cut. We now know that we are going to have to remove zinc from creep diets, albeit not immediately, and for most of us that is going to be a significant challenge. Management of the pre- and post- weaned pig, has once again come to the fore and we are pleased to welcome speakers who will review nutrition and management in this period.

In a Pig Fair some years ago we revisited the basics of feed and water provision, and we have come back to this for another look at water quality (and hopefully how to make sense of water quality test results!).

One issue that has emerged over past months has been that of so called ‘animal rights’ groups on our farms and at abattoirs. Although this is a situation none of us want to be faced with, illegal activity on farms has been increasing and can cause real distress. This is an important industry issue that we must take heed of, and will be addressed by the NPA and colleagues during the afternoon.

In addition, the GVG team will be presenting some of our newer projects and services, we will have the usual round up of health news headlines.

We are always grateful to our colleagues in allied industry, vital in helping us stage these meetings, and generous in their help and support.

Come along and enjoy the presentations, the soup and pasties, and most of all, the opportunity to interact, contribute and discuss (argue?) as this is how best we as an industry will achieve answers to some of the more chewy questions and continue to move forward.

Please call 01666 823355 or email [pigteam@georgevetgroup.co.uk](mailto:pigteam@georgevetgroup.co.uk) to book your place.

Wincanton Racecourse, BA9 8BJ - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2 – 6 p.m.

Exeter Racecourse, EX6 7XS – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2 – 6 p.m.

Please check out our website [georgevetgroup.co.uk](http://georgevetgroup.co.uk) for any further developments. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Annie Davis BVMS MRCVS**

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