



The
GEORGE
Farm Vets

New for 2019

YOUNGSTOCK CONVENTION

This year we are going to host a youngstock convention on Wednesday 6th March at Eastwood Park, WUE, GL12 8DA just off J14 M5, 10:00-16:00. The aim is to provide a forum for knowledge transfer and networking for all parties involved in the supply chain.

So, everyone is welcome! Whether you are a dairy rearing your own replacements, a calf rearer, a suckler herd or a flyer herd selling calves at 6w, there will be something for you.

In the morning, there will be short presentations on a wide range of topics from nutrition to preventative health.



Georgina Thomas from Trouw nutrition will explain that nutrition in the first 8w is key to life long productivity. Though the calf's genetics are set at conception, which of those genes get turned on is determined by early life nutrition.

Steph Small from MSD will demonstrate the importance of early life health and its effects on performance. Also, how having a youngstock review can be a useful way to assess where your farm's specific bottlenecks are.



The spotlight is on antibiotic usage and ways to lower use, whilst maintaining health and welfare is key. This will be discussed alongside options such as new drugs and technologies.

Dechra has carried out some research to show that calf rearers who have traditionally used antibiotics to cover problems around mixing and arrival can replace the antibiotics with anti-inflammatories. This lowers both grams of antibiotics used as well as days under treatment.



New technologies to aid in early disease detection are increasing whether that be fever tags that flash as part of the ear tag or sensors within milk machines.



Genetic improvement over the past few decades has been vast in the dairy herd. Now, with sexed semen also available, the option to select dams that you want to have replacements from is key. Genomic testing is one way to achieve this. If selecting sexed and beef calves this also opens the options of keeping calves differently and giving preferential treatment to the replacements.



Lunch and refreshments will be included at the convention, during which there will be time to look round the numerous trade stands and ask more questions on any topics already discussed.

In the afternoon we will host a producer panel with a question and answer section. We all love to know how other farmers have solved problems and created solutions. Farmers on the panel will be selected from a range of producers - from all year-round to block-calvers and also calf-rearers, including calves fed on machines and those by bucket. Contract rearing will be discussed as will TMR feeding of youngstock.



One of the common difficulties is how to record and easily collect youngstock data. Tru-test will be at the convention to demonstrate their easy-to-use weigh system, as weight gain is one of the easiest ways to manage and monitor efficient growth.

If you have any queries, or to book tickets, either ring into the office or look for the youngstock convention page on our website.

Agenda for the day:

- 10:00 am **Kat Hart** - The George Farm Vets
- 10:15 am **Georgina Thomas** – Trouw Nutrition
- 11:00 am **Steph Small** - MSD
- 11:40 am BREAK
- 12:00 pm **Johnny Wells-West** - Dechra
- 12:45 pm **Ben Hurst** - Zoetis
- 1:30 pm LUNCH
- 2:30 pm **Producer panel Q&A**
- 3:15 pm **Networking opportunity**
- 4:00 pm **Close**



Kat Hart BVSc BSc
Cert AVP (Cattle)
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Bridget Bankham



Have you tried our farm supplies shop yet?

In addition to our online shop, we now offer the same products for sale through our main pharmacy at Malmesbury. If you are looking for wormers or fluke drench, fly or lice treatments, vaccines, minerals and supplements or calf products please contact Bridget and the team for a price. You can contact us on the same number that you ring to place drug orders so it couldn't be easier. We can then arrange everything on your behalf.

Products can be collected from Malmesbury, delivered to one of our branches, posted out or your vet can bring it on your next visit. So, next time you are doing routine animal husbandry jobs on the farm, or you and your vet discuss treatment requirements for your livestock, think of The George Veterinary Group for these products and give us a call. You'll be surprised what we have to offer.