

January 2025

**Electronic Medicines Book (EMB):**

Just a quick reminder to everyone that the **EMB deadline** for 2024 Q4 is on the **10<sup>th</sup> February**.

**Animal Health and Welfare Pathway:**

A quick reminder to anyone that has yet to engage with the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway – there's still time!

The scheme provides funding to farmers to support continual improvement of animal health and welfare through the following programme:

**Step 1. Animal Health and Welfare review**

- Once you've applied and received an agreement number you can organise a review visit with you vet. During this visit your vet will:
  - Testing – collect oral fluids from at least 30 pigs using ropes
    - *One of the priorities of the scheme is the control of PRRSv within the UK pig industry*
  - Advice – on biosecurity, medicine usage and how you can further improve your animals' health and welfare

**Step 2. Endemic disease follow-up**

- Follow-up blood samples will be taken from 30 pigs
  - These will be taken regardless of your previous results whether negative or positive
- A biosecurity assessment will be undertaken giving you a score out of 100
- Your vet may review your medicine usage and make recommendations on improvements
- A written report will then be produced discussing test results and any further actions from this

There are also **additional grants** that can be applied to **co-fund capital investments** to support the delivery of health and welfare priorities. These include smaller grants covering **equipment** and **technology** and larger **infrastructure** grants.

### Training – a reminder of what we offer:

- SOP training
  - Includes the following: piglet euthanasia <5kg (CPK), euthanasia of pig >5kg (captive bolt or firearm), tail docking, teeth clipping, medicines handling and administration, ear notching, casualty pig management, hospital pen management, ear tagging and slap marking
- Red Tractor approved medicines training (*it is a **requirement** by **Red Tractor standards** to have at least **one member of staff** with **up-to date training***)
  - Includes the following: medicine types, antibiotic classes, medicine handling, administration and storage, recording requirements, avoiding residues, antimicrobial resistance and the responsible use of antibiotics
- Euthanasia training/ refresher (*Red Tractor require everyone listed to receive refresher training every two years*)
  - Includes the following: euthanasia of piglets <5kg (CPK), euthanasia of pig >5kg (captive bolt), euthanasia of pig >4 weeks old (captive bolt or firearm)

These training courses can be adjusted to meet your farm requirements.

We are working hard to develop further training courses in the coming months. If you have any ideas or recommendations please don't hesitate to forward these onto us.



### It's getting cold!!

Water availability – whilst we tend to worry about this most over the summer months, during these cold spells it's easy to overlook frozen drinkers or water lines. Pigs are particularly vulnerable to water deprivation (otherwise known as salt poisoning) making it even more important to ensure adequate water availability at all times.

Water deprivation presents as nervous disease ranging from mild symptoms of dullness and depression which can quickly develop into collapse, paddling and the classic opisthotonus and eventually leading to death. All of these signs can be mistaken for infectious meningitis, therefore careful history taking and clinical examination by your vet is advised.



The treatment of water deprivation in pigs is complex as more severe clinical symptoms can be triggered by restoring water supply too quickly. Therefore, water should be restricted and returned to normal flowrate over an extended period of time. Individual pig treatment can result in recovery so please seek veterinary advice as to what to do.

Take away points:



- **Check water supply points frequently**, especially during high risk times (very cold or hot spells)
- Have a **contingency plan** in case of loss of water supply (frozen lines, damaged water lines, run out of water)

### **PHS upcoming dates**

A quick reminder to all GVG Pig Health Scheme members if you would like your pigs assessed these are out next dates at Westerleigh:

- 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January
- 4<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March

If you have not yet joined the scheme and would like to, and market your pigs to Westerleigh please email [PHS@georgevetgroup.co.uk](mailto:PHS@georgevetgroup.co.uk) or call the office on 01666823355.

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