

Talkshop September 2024

Firstly we hope you are all well and that harvest has treated you all well. We have had an alert through from the Animal Health and Plant Agency (APHA) warning that it is likely there will be high levels of Ergot in this year's harvest. Whilst this has effects on animal health and is often our main concern, there is also a risk to humans. Please keep this in mind and be aware of the signs in humans – Nausea, Vomiting, Numbness, Itching and a slowed Heart rate. Please where appropriate, wear the correct PPE when having potential contact with ergot.

This month I have focused on our Pig Fair as well as provided some update on the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway.

PIG FAIR! – TUESDAY 15th OCTOBER, TAUNTON RUGBY CLUB, 2-6 PM

Pig Fair will soon be upon us and it would be great to see as many of you as possible. This year is one for all the team with a variety of topics being covered. Last year we had a great turnout from both producers and allied industry alike and we look forward to seeing many of you and more again.

This year's topic will include: a deep dive into pleurisy and how we can better our understanding of this pathology and its effects on farm; we will present the data captured from our abattoir monitoring programme and review general pig health; we will have an update on the most current legislation regarding the Veterinary Medicines Regulations to bring you and us up to date together; with more exciting topics to be confirmed.



We really appreciate the chance to host this knowledge sharing event with you, particularly the data captured from your businesses, and last year generated some healthy discussion that created some salient take away points. If you wish to come from further afield, as we appreciate it may be a long way to travel for some of you, please let us know. There may be an opportunity to lift share with other producers. Please also let us know if you intend to join as this will help us with catering... as usual there should be pasties!

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway – UPDATE:

The Annual Health and Welfare Review is now in its second year and those who applied for the original Annual Health and Welfare Review may be eligible for a second visit under this scheme. To be eligible for a follow up visit: the first review must have been carried out at least 10 months prior to the application for the second review. This review, as per the initial review, will also require 30 animals to be blood sampled for PRRS virus regardless of the previous result. There is also a compulsory biosecurity review using the biocheck survey. You are able to claim £923 to fund the visit and are paid by results. There will also be some time to look at another area of your choosing.

For those that have still not gone through with the initial review, this involves taking samples for PRRS using ropes for saliva. There is then scope to spend some time on farm targeting an area of your choice. This will be charged

separately to your normal Quarterly Veterinary Visit and you are able to claim up to £557 to fund this visit and are paid by results.

Some of the areas we have looked into so far using the funded visit:

- Building audits using our environmental monitoring kit
- Monitoring Iron levels at point of weaning in piglets

Some further suggestions:

- Audits of vaccination on farm
- Monitoring colostrum quality in sows
- Practical training with staff

AHDB explain the process really clearly and I would encourage all of you, regardless of which stage you are at to engage with the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. Those that sign up also have access to capital grants.

More information at the following link / AHDB website:

<https://ahdb.org.uk/news/farmers-to-access-new-funds-through-the-animal-health-and-welfare-pathway>

Please speak to your unit vet to discuss further.

Vet attestation certificates

It is nearly a year since we issued the first certificates so please check your records to see if they need updating and contact us.

We hope to see as many of you at Pig Fair as possible! What do you call a pig with mites?

“Pork Scratchings “

Tom





PLEASE RING THE PRACTICE AND BOOK YOUR PLACE

GVG Pig Fair 2024

TAUNTON RUGBY CLUB, TA2 8BU – Tuesday 15th October 2 pm – 6pm

You are warmly invited to join the GVG Pig Team at the 2024 Pig Fair.

This year's topics include;

Understanding and addressing Pleurisy

Abattoir assessments and the Pig Health Review

Update on Veterinary Medicines Regulations

Regional round-up and current health issues

.....and more to be confirmed!

Please make a note of the date, we look forward to seeing you there.

Please RSVP to Angie on 01666 823355 /

pigteam@georgevetgroup.co.uk to reserve your place. Hope to see you there!