



Newsletter

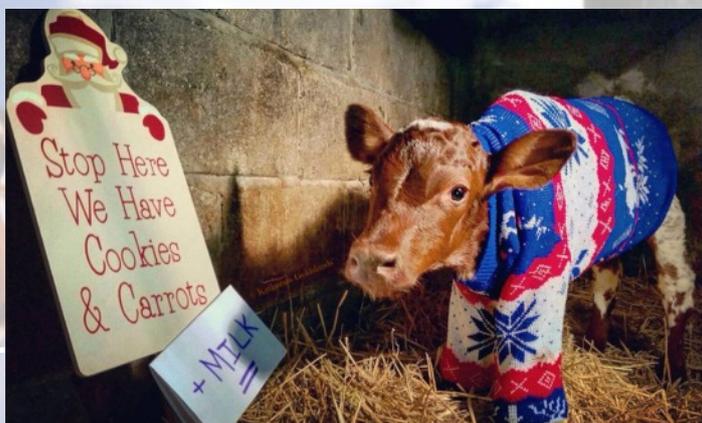
December 2021

Christmas Opening

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. If the livestock don't make things as peaceful as they could be, however, our opening times are as follows:

Christmas Eve - 08:00 - 16:00
Christmas Day - Closed
Boxing Day - Closed
Monday 27th Dec - Closed
Tuesday 28th Dec - Closed
New Year's Eve - 08:00 - 16:00
New Year's Day - Closed
Monday 3rd Jan - Closed

We are open as usual for all other days during the festive period and, of course, we will always have a vet on call to cover any emergencies 24/7.



Orchard Vets Glastonbury

Tel: 01458 832972

www.ovg.co.uk

Red tractor changes

In the latest round of changes to the Red Tractor standards, there are a few animal health topics which now need to be included:

For Dairy farms:

The farm needs to have a written breeding and management policy in place and implemented that focuses on eliminating the routine euthanasia of calves

Annual collation of calf births/deaths must be maintained

Housing must be constructed and maintained to provide a safe and secure environment for livestock. The farm must be aware of outcome measures relating to hair loss, lesions, swelling, cleanliness, body condition score and lameness

For Beef and Lamb:

The nominated vet must review, sign and date the Health Plan

At least one person who is responsible for administering medicines on farm must have a certificate of competence/attendance from training undertaken since October 2016.

Bird flu

Whilst it looks unlikely we'll be subjected to another Covid lockdown, unfortunately captive birds are now subject to a bird flu "flockdown".

An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) is now in force throughout Great Britain which requires all captive birds to be housed (from commercial flocks, to backyard hens to Emus, owls and flamingoes - believe it or not, we do look after some of these!).

If you spot any of these signs, you must notify APHA as avian influenza is a notifiable disease:

- sudden and rapid increase in the number of birds found dead
- swollen head
- closed and excessively watery eyes
- lethargy and depression
- recumbency and unresponsiveness
- incoordination and loss of balance
- head and body tremoring
- drooping of the wings and/or dragging of legs
- twisting of the head and neck
- swelling and blue discolouration of comb and wattles
- haemorrhages on shanks of the legs and under the skin of the neck
- loss of appetite or marked decrease in feed consumption
- respiratory distress such as gaping (mouth breathing), nasal snicking (coughing sound), sneezing, gurgling or rattling
- discoloured or loose watery droppings

Medicines update

The supply of lactating cow intramammaries is still an ongoing issue, with Ubro Yellow and Tetra Delta now discontinued. Availability of some dry cow tubes has also been inconsistent. If you do need to use an alternative, please do check the instructions - withdrawal periods in particular may not be the same as your usual choice.

As more attention is paid to the quantity of antibiotics used on farms, now is a good time to review treatment protocols with us. As a first-line product for general infections, we would now recommend Betamox over Pen&Strep. It covers the same range of bacterial infections, but only uses a third of the number of milligrams per dose. Withdrawal periods are also shorter.

