

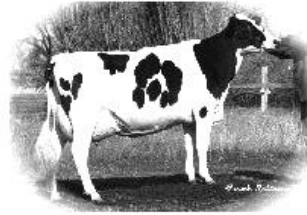
FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

THE VETERINARY CLINIC,
LONDON ROAD, BECCLES,
SUFFOLK. NR34 9YU.

TEL: 01502 712169 FAX: 01502 712694

CATTLE PRACTICE

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER.



If the current hot spell is followed by some very wet weather there is likely to be a large late hatch of both gut worm, lung worm & liver fluke larvae so be aware and plan ahead

**THREE RIVERS VETS TEAM --
"1 Team - 2 CAUSES - 3 RIVERS".**

On 20th October 2018, 25 members of the Three Rivers team are taking part in a 5k Inflatable fun run at the Norwich show ground.

We are looking to raise money for 2 charities, The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I) and Cats Protection. As I am sure you are aware, R.A.B.I offers financial support to farming people in times of hardship.

If you would like to make a contribution there are two ways:

1. You can donate online at:
<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/1Team2Causes3Rivers>
2. You can drop any donations off at any of our branches or hand them to any large animal vet.

Thank you in advance of any support you can give us.

AHDB - Make Sure You Have Your Say.

Defra has launched a consultation to review the role of the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB).

The consultations will last 10 weeks and the remit is to examine AHDB's purpose, priorities and strengths, with the purpose of identifying where improvements need to be made and the value which it provides to the farming community.

Views have to be given before November 9 2018.

Food processors and industry representatives are being asked for their views - so it is important that farmers are vocal in their views so that they are not under represented.

The AHDB collects around £60 million a year in statutory levy from farmers and growers.

Farming Minister George Eustice said: "At a time when we are designing a new agriculture policy from first principles, now is also a good time to review the role and function of this agricultural and horticultural levy body. "This request for views is an opportunity for levy payers to have their say about the role and function of the various components of the AHDB in the future."

Jane King, the AHDB's chief executive, said: "We welcome this opportunity to gain feedback from farmers and growers, and to help the industry compete in a global marketplace as the country prepares to leave the EU." She explained that she encouraged views to shape where AHDB can have the biggest impact and drive value as an independent, evidence-based body responsible for marketing at home and abroad, and sharing best practice and innovation with the industry at what is a crucial time.

You can give your views online through a questionnaire:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/farming/views-on-ahdb>

AHDB has also set up a section on its website for people to see what they do and how they are governed and funded:

www.ahdb.org.uk/requestforviews

For those of you who would like to fill in the questionnaire and post it we have forms available at the reception in Beccles or we can email you a copy.

Novel Breakthrough in the Fight Against *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Researchers have made a major breakthrough in the fight against *staphylococcus aureus* a bacteria that causes mastitis in cattle

M. E. BARDSLEY B. Vet Med. Cert CHP*. MRCVS.

The research was announced in a recent scientific publication; this was a major study that analysed the entire genetic make-up of more than 800 different strains of *S aureus*. This bacteria is also responsible for antibiotic resistant strains of MRSA in humans.

The Universities of Edinburgh and Cambridge, and the Wellcome Sanger Institute, were co-authors of the paper. These findings could, ultimately, be the basis of new therapeutic treatments for diseases which are resistant to antibiotics in both humans and animals.

The researchers found humans were the likely original host for the bacteria. The first strains capable of infecting livestock emerged around the time animals were first domesticated for farming.

A team, led by The University of Edinburgh's Roslin Institute, said its findings revealed a new understanding of how new strains of the bacteria emerge.

By comparing the genetic code of *S aureus* isolates from different species, the group had been able to look at the evolutionary relationship of the bacteria to each other.

Prof Fitzgerald (group leader at The Roslin Institute and director of Edinburgh Infectious Diseases) said: "What this has shown is *S aureus* has probably co-evolved with a human host for a long time in evolutionary terms, but it has made a switch into other host species including cows, goats, sheep, chickens and pigs – so it's jumped from humans into those different host species, and adapted genetically and functionally to colonise, survive and cause disease in that new host species."

Prof Fitzgerald continued: "This study has been a real collaborative effort between numerous research groups in the UK and beyond. Our findings provide a framework to understand how some bacteria can cause disease in both humans and animals, and could, ultimately, reveal novel therapeutic targets."

BVD "Stamp IT Out" Campaign.

Three Rivers Vets are enrolled as deliverers of the £5.7 million Government funded BVD "Stamp It Out" campaign.

At the end of the scheme the government aims to have 50% of breeding cattle in the UK BVD free.

Scotland is already nearly BVD free and Wales is introducing compulsory measures in the near future. It is likely that a compulsory scheme for England may follow this initial funded scheme. So farmers in England would be wise to take advantage and enroll with us now for the funding before it is taken up. All farmers can benefit from the funding even those who

are already BVD free - so contact us about enrollment as soon as possible.

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), costs UK farmers an estimated £60 million per year. It impacts animal welfare within affected herds and reduces farm productivity and profitability.

The scheme will run in England for three years through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE), the funding will enable farmers to apply for one-to-one farm advisory visits by a veterinary practitioner. The vets will work with keepers of breeding cattle to tackle BVD on their farms.

The programme will also pull together new 'clusters' of cattle keepers to work together against BVD, by sharing best practice and tackle this disease as a group of like-minded individuals who share the goal of eradicating BVD from their herds.

Farming Minister George Eustice MP said: "This is a damaging disease that has a real impact on productivity, cattle health and welfare. This funding presents an opportunity for farmers to get help in tackling BVD, improving cattle performance and reducing cost and anti-microbial use".

Christine Middlemiss, UK Chief Veterinary Officer said: "The Rural Development Programme funding provides a brilliant opportunity to tackle BVD. This new scheme will include support for farm visits, screening cattle for disease, vet training, and the formation of local cluster groups. I encourage farmers and vets to sign up to this fantastic opportunity".

The project is being delivered by SAC Consulting, part of Scotland's Rural College, under the title of 'Stamp out BVD', who will recruit local vets to offer the programme to farmers on the ground. It is larger than any previous BVD project in England in terms of both funding and scope, and offers a comprehensive package to farmers.

Neil Carter, Project Manager at SAC Consulting, said: "BVD is a costly disease, often affecting business performance without a full understanding of the implications. Following on from our successful delivery of a similar programme in Scotland, this project is a great opportunity for cattle farmers across the whole of England to get support from their vet to investigate the disease at farm level, with some funding available for testing, enabling them to improve business output and reduce the disease nationally".

Please contact us to enroll for funding as soon as possible.

M. E. BARDSLEY B. Vet Med. Cert CHP*. MRCVS.