

# APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

## Welcome



### Bull and Ram Fertility Testing

Did you know that a bull will naturally become less fertile after the age of 6 years? Very often, the breeding potential of the males in the herd and flock is not assessed. When we consider that the bull or tup is responsible for 50% of the potential to conceive, this leaves a lot to chance. Over the past 12 months, we have been performing more fertility testing and have been interested to see that many breeding decisions have been subsequently made off the back of the results that we have found. You'll never regret making a pre-emptive decision for the fertility of your herd or flock, however many find themselves regretting the consequences of discovering infertility after the breeding has finished or is underway.

#### What does a bull/ram fertility consist of?

- Full clinical examination, checking animals ability to move, eat, see.
- Examination of reproductive tract.
- Electroejaculation and analysis of semen sample, looking at gross motility, progressive motility and morphology of semen.



#### What do you need?

- An electricity source in a nice, sheltered spot (ideally not too far from the handling system)
- A well-functioning crush or way of restraining rams at the neck
- Assistance to keep the probe in place
- Daylight hours to be reducing (after the summer solstice) for rams

If you have multiple bulls or rams to test, the cost reduces for subsequent testing.

#### VetPartners Charity Donation Match

We are thrilled to say that through VetPartners Charity Donation Match scheme, both of the charities supported by our Christmas Quiz have received an additional donation of £609. Bringing the total for both the Melanoma Fund and the MS Society to £2061.73 each!

#### Barren Ewe Screening

Have you got empty ewes who should have lambed?

It's important to investigate why ewes didn't get in lamb or have lost lambs since scanning. There is funding available for testing for Enzootic abortion and Toxoplasmosis – 2 of the most common causes of abortions in the UK.

Please contact the office on 01455 710935 to book in some testing or to speak to a vet to find out more.

#### Semen Straw Testing

We will be offering the option to perform dynamic motility testing over a 2-hour period on semen straws in April. Provisional results are showing that semen that remain motile for over 2hrs can increase conception rates in the region of 8%. Don't miss out on adding this to your herd!

Please contact Lauren on the office number to book in your straws for analysis.

**Super Sky!** The Vet Record have acknowledged Sky's paper as being in the top 10% of papers published! The welfare indicators for stunning versus non-stunning slaughter in sheep and cattle can be viewed here: <https://doi.org/10.1002/vetr.1739>

# Lambing Photo Competition

Last year the competition was fierce! Look out for our lambing photo competition on Facebook and share with us your cutest/funniest/best lambing photo to be in with a chance to win half-price membership to the Flock Club! One photo per farm.

Our Flock Club is a group of like-minded farmers who get together for talks, presentations and discussions.

One year's subscription will get you:

- ◆ 2 pre-booked visits and 2 hours of health planning time

Examples of what this could be used for:

- ◆ Writing your Flock Health Plan
- ◆ Blood sampling for CLA/MV etc
- ◆ Pre-lambing or Pre-tupping bloods
- ◆ Unlimited in-house worm egg counts
- ◆ 10% off
  - ◆ Ram vasectomies
  - ◆ In house post-mortems
  - ◆ Ram fertility testing
- ◆ Fixed price lambings
- ◆ 3-4 meetings per year



Please submit your photos by 5pm Friday 26th April 2024. We will then invite people to vote for their favourite - most votes wins! Good luck! 🍀

# Farming Equipment and Technology Fund

Applications for the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund are now live. Farmers in England can boost their chance of receiving 50% grant funding on a range of animal health and welfare equipment by discussing their application with their vet.

The fund includes 3 grants to help farmers buy equipment or technology to:

- ✓ Improve productivity
- ✓ Manage slurry
- ✓ Improve animal health and welfare

Farmers can increase their application score by 20% if they provide evidence that there has been discussion with their vet.

Applications close 17<sup>th</sup> April.

## Cross Counties Farm Vets

**Lutterworth Branch:** Elizabethan House, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4NJ. ☎ 01455 552117

**Welford Branch:** Elkington Lodge, Elkington Road, Welford, Northampton, NN6 6HE. ☎ 01455 710935

**Broughton Astley Branch:** 12 Swannington Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, LE9 6TU. ☎ 01455 282512

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