

January 2024 NEWSLETTER

Welcome



EVERYONE AT CROSS COUNTIES FARM VETS WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

January 2024

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Out and about...

We love hearing what you've been up to and sharing your successes, please get in touch. We have shared some recent stories below.

One of our clients, John Davies took to the ring at the Welsh Winter Fair to judge the baby beef class! Twelve years ago, John and his wife Denise showed there for the first time. When the call came to judge, the opportunity couldn't be missed, especially at such a prestigious event with a tremendous show of cattle. John and Denise are well aware of how much work goes into showing cattle and the preparation required, having been involved with showing for many years.



MSD roadshow

Congratulations to Rob Sercombe who won an Allflex stick reader, at the MSD Roadshow at the National Space Centre in Leicester.

We are thrilled to be part of his journey. We look forward to seeing how this reader enhances their operations on farm.




Round of applause for our QUIZ WINNERS!

Fabulous Baker Boys & Girls



We had a lovely evening and raised an impressive **£2905.47** for the MS Society & Melanoma Fund.

Mastering Medicines Course

 Our next medicines course will be held on the 18th of January at our Lutterworth branch. Starting at 7.15pm the course will be £30 per person. Lutterworth branch. If you would like to attend, please call the office on 01455 710935.

In compliance with Red Tractor certified Standards.



Get ready for lambing!

Pre-lambing Metabolic Testing

Pre-lambing bloods help to provide information on the nutritional status of your ewes. Gaining this valuable information helps to guide feeding decisions, prevent body condition loss and pregnancy toxemia (also known as twin lamb). Blood tests assess for energy and protein levels, allowing for adjustments in feeding to be made should a problem be found. Low energy levels contribute to an increased risk of ewes developing twin lamb, whilst low protein levels can have an impact on colostrum quality and lamb growth.

Blood sampling should ideally be carried out 3 weeks before lambing is due to start. We would recommend collecting a blood sample from 6 sheep in each category (singles, doubles, triplets). Lambing season is fast approaching, so contact us for further information and to book your visit with one of our vets.

Pre-lambing WEC

Performing worm egg counts is particularly useful before lambing. Ewes suffer from an increased immune challenge around lambing time, which can lead to higher worm burdens. By performing WECs on your ewes now, and treating them if needed, we can avoid highly contaminated pastures helping to protect young grazing lambs. Testing your ewes before treating avoids unnecessary treatments, which can lead to resistance. Collect 10-15 individual fresh samples from each group of ewes and drop them in to one of our branches to check the current status of your flock.

Shed Preparation

Prevention is always better than cure, and proper disinfection of your lambing sheds and equipment is a priority. Incidence rates of common infectious lamb diseases, such as joint ill, navel ill and watery mouth can be drastically improved by adhering to a strict disinfection regime. Follow these 5 steps:

1. Remove biological matter (e.g. straw).
2. Power wash with detergent to remove contaminants (dirt).
3. Allow to dry.
4. Disinfect with a DEFRA approved disinfectant to remove infectious pathogens (viruses, bacteria).
5. Leave to dry.



Once lambing commences:

Maintaining excellent hygiene in your lambing area and cleaning and disinfecting clothing and equipment properly is essential to reducing disease risk.

- Pens should be mucked out regularly, and cleaned and disinfected between uses.
- Every utensil used for feeding lambs with milk replacer or colostrum must be carefully cleaned with warm water, sanitised with an appropriate disinfectant (mixed to the manufacturer's instructions), rinsed, and allowed to dry after every feed.
- Wear disposable, close-fitting, protective gloves when lambing any ewes that need assistance.
- Wear clean overalls and dip boots in disinfectant to reduce the risk of introducing harmful diseases into the shed.
- Separate sick ewes and lambs in isolation pens for biosecurity purposes, alongside monitoring and treatment. Use different equipment and/or take extra care when disinfecting.

Cross Counties Farm Vets

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