

January 2025 NEWSLETTER

Welcome



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

Mental health: Brew Monday



January can be a difficult month for many, with challenging weather and short days making a tough job even harder. It's important to look after ourselves and reach out when we aren't feeling so good. [The 20th of January is 'Brew Monday'](#) - a day in which we are all encouraged to take a few minutes out of our day to make a cuppa and catch up with a friend or colleague - in person or over the phone. It's a good opportunity to check in with those we might not have spoken to for a while or take a few minutes from our busy lives to spend with family or friends.

As always, if you are struggling, please speak to someone - a friend or relative, or one of the anonymous helplines available:

Farming Community Network: 03000 111 999

Samaritans: 116 123

RABI: 0800 188 4444

Clubs: Did you know we run a Flock club, a Beef Club and a Smallholders Club? All our clubs have lots of member benefits to save you money and spread the cost of your annual health plan, as well as meeting for lively discussions, presentations and demonstrations.

Contact the office
for a specific list of
what is included

What do you call a really fast lamb?.....A lamb-orghini!

January 2025

- Brew Monday - 20th January
- Lambing boxes
- Clubs: Flock, Beef and Smallholder clubs
- Lambing and calving: NEW Navel protection product from NoBACZ

Lambing boxes

This spring we will be selling lambing boxes to ensure you have all the kit you need, on hand ready for the busy season ahead!



Please get in touch for more information and to register interest!

Flock club meeting 6th of February

This meeting is for Flock Club members only – if you would like more information on our Flock Club or would like to join, please ring the office on 01455 710935.

Get ready for lambing: Protect the navel!

Until now the recommendation has been to apply 'strong iodine' to the umbilicus, and sometimes ear-tagging sites. Dipping using a non-return dip cup offers the best coverage of the navel. The aim is to provide desiccation or "drying out" of the umbilicus and disinfection of the surface to prevent bacteria from infecting internal organs and entering the bloodstream. However, in recent years, iodine supply has become more difficult, and prices have soared. Many clients often advise that it is too easily licked off or drips off the navel and that re-applications are required

NoBACZ Healthcare, a company based at The University of Cambridge, have developed a liquid solution containing a proprietary blend of shellac and metal salts in an ethanol base (NoBACZ Navel). It provides greater drying out of the umbilicus than iodine or chlorhexidine (with or without spirit), and 360° protection by forming a non-colonizable hydrophobic barrier – protecting the lamb or calf from the environment. Uniquely, it also contains a bitter agent, making it lick-resistant so that cows or ewes won't interfere and lick it off the navel.

Throughout the last lambing season Flock Health Ltd ran a randomized control trial with 6840 lambs involved half having their navels and ear-tagging sites doses with strong iodine compared with half dosed with NoBACZ Navel.

NoBACZ navel demonstrated superior protection compared with iodine in the study. This was evidenced by the 21% reduction in mortality that was observed in the NoBACZ navel group compared with the iodine group. The study also showed a benefit in dipping over spraying, and a clear benefit in applying product to the ear before tagging. For more information or to purchase please contact the office.

Contact the office to place your order in time for lambing and calving!



Scanning results

Have you got empty ewes, or disappointing scan results? It's important to investigate why ewes are not in lamb. There is funding available for testing for Enzootic abortion and Toxoplasmosis – 2 of the most common causes of abortions in the UK.

VMR update: Last year there were some changes to the Veterinary Medicines Regulations. The regulations state that 'a veterinary surgeon may not prescribe a veterinary medicinal product which is an antibiotic for prophylactic purposes. This refers to prescribing medicines preventatively - giving antibiotic 'just in case'. The new changes to the rules are to protect antibiotics and reduce any misuse that might lead to antibiotic resistance developing. As lambing nears for some flocks, please expect some more questions and follow up from us when we are prescribing antibiotics for newborn lambs, but as ever we will continue to prescribe antibiotics where they are needed. There are lots of things you can do to reduce the need for antibiotics in the lambing shed - please get in touch to discuss pre-lambing metabolic bloods in ewes, nutrition, colostrum management and hygiene in the shed.

Cross Counties Farm Vets

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