

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Welcome

CHRISTMAS QUIZ ROUNDUP

On Friday 5th December we hosted the 8th Annual Christmas Quiz, in memory of Tom Mitchell. This year, we supported The Farming Community Network (FCN) and Macmillan Cancer Support. These charities play an important role in supporting the farming communities and families we work with.

We had a wonderful evening with a great quiz (even if it was a little Devon biased, thanks Paul Uglow from Norbrook, who provided us with it) which for the first time in the history of the quiz was won by the team made up mainly of CCFV employees and their partners. Safe to say, credit goes to the partners as the vets are notoriously bad at general knowledge, tending to know more about farm veterinary than anything else! The food was excellent, and the pudding spread as legendary as ever.

Thank you all for your generous support. Through ticket sales, the silent auction and the raffle, we were able to raise **£3252.50**, which we hope VetPartners will boost for us.

CATTLE HOUSING CHECKLIST REMINDER

Housing is a great time to give cattle their annual MOT, have a think about the following tasks which can be easier to achieve during housing:

- Vaccinations
- Parasite Control – Worms, Lice and Mites +/- Fluke
- TB Testing
- Pregnancy Diagnosis
- Trace Element Testing
- Infectious Disease Investigations, such as BVD
- Lameness assessment and treatment
- Body Condition Scoring
- Health Planning

For more information or advice, speak to your vet.

In this issue:

- Christmas Quiz Round-up
- Winter Housing Checklist
- Listeriosis in Sheep



Contact FCN

To talk to a sympathetic person who understands farmers and rural life, call:

Helpline: 03000 111 999

Calls will be answered in person from 7am-11pm every day of the year.

For non-urgent enquiries:

01788 510866 9am to 5pm weekdays or
email: help@fcn.org.uk.





Listeriosis in Sheep

What is it?

- Listeriosis is an infection of the bacteria *Listeria monocytogenes*. It is found in soil and can be incorporated into silage, but is usually killed during fermentation
- If silage is not fermented properly, *Listeria* can grow
- Ulcers, erupting teeth and other lesions in the mouth can act as an entry point for the bacteria into the body. From here, the bacteria can move to the brain and cause neurological clinical signs

Clinical signs

- One sided facial paralysis
- Isolation from the rest of the flock
- Disorientation
- Depression
- Anorexia (not eating)
- Unsteady on feet
- Profuse salivation
- Head tilt
- Circling
- Silage eye (cloudiness on the eye's surface)
- Abortion
- Can be fatal



Who is most affected?

- Young animals that have erupting teeth are most affected
- Outbreaks typically occur 10-21 days after poor quality silage is fed, and usually only a few animals will show clinical signs
- Affects animals in spring and winter time when reliance on silage is increased

Treatment

Your vet will be able to diagnose and prescribe treatment for listeriosis

- Systemic antibiotics to stop the infection
- Antibiotic eye ointment to treat silage eye, if present
- Steroids to reduce inflammation in the brain (only if not pregnant)
- Supportive care

Prevention

- Do not feed spoiled silage to animals
- Keep troughs clean
- Limit introduction of air to silage, both during production and storage
- Keep bales wrapped, dry and fenced away from farm stock and vermin

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