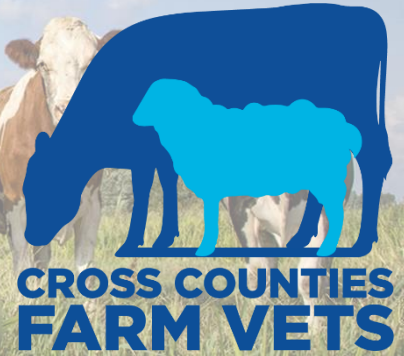


February 2026 NEWSLETTER

Welcome



Don't forget the farm pets

Farm cats and dogs are an important part of many farm businesses from pest control to livestock handling; and in many cases can be a significant investment.



However, across the UK it is not uncommon for preventative care such as vaccines or routine check-ups to not continue past their first couple of years on farm.

What does preventative care involve?

- Keeping up to date with annual vaccinations.
- Flea and worming treatments based on individual needs.
- An annual examination by a vet for early detection of issues.
- Neutering (if appropriate) to stop unwanted pregnancies and some preventable health conditions.
- Dental examinations to ensure good oral health.
- Pet insurance, especially for high value animals.

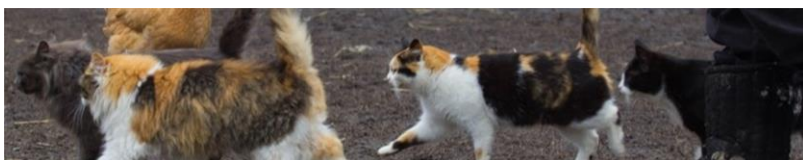
Why should I invest in preventative care?

Preventative care has been shown to prolong life, and crucially the working life of both cats and dogs as well as reducing costs for you by catching and treating issues early when they are less severe.

Additionally, preventative care can improve the health of your livestock. With regular worming you can reduce the spread of diseases such as tapeworm in your cattle and sheep, or by neutering cats you can reduce the number of strays which are at a higher risk of spreading Toxoplasma to your sheep.

How do I get started?

You can speak to one of our farm vets on farm or over the phone, or alternatively you can book an appointment or speak to one of our dedicated small animal team at our Lutterworth (01455 552117), or Broughton Astley Branch, (01455 282512).



Christmas Quiz Update

We are delighted to announce that following our annual charity Christmas Quiz VetPartners have donated an extra **£795** to each charity through their giving back scheme.

This means that we have donated a fantastic **£2463.75** to both **Macmillan Cancer Support** and **The Farming Community Network**. We couldn't have such a successful event without all your support so we would like to extend a warm thank you to you all.

Macmillan have told us that the money donated to them alone will pay for a Macmillan nurse to help people living with cancer and their families with essential medical, practical and emotional support for over 8 days.



Which dog is popular around Hadrian's Wall?

A Border Collie!!



Biobest Laboratory closure

After 30 years of serving the veterinary and animal health community, we are saddened to hear that Biobest laboratories have announced the closure of its operations with immediate effect. Biobest will be completing all work currently in progress and results will be reported as normal. However, it will no longer be accepting new samples.

Those of you who have HiHealth scheme memberships with Biobest will be contacted directly to outline your options for transfer of these schemes. The option to transfer your HiHealth scheme to the SRUC Premium Cattle Health Scheme (PCHS) and continue your current accreditation with minimal disruption will be available. To ensure continuity of essential services, Biobest will be directly guiding those that participate in their HiHealth schemes, helping with the transitioning of submissions reporting to SRUC. The SRUC will be prioritising those with tests due imminently (within the next month). As you can imagine the SRUC have received a high volume of queries and ask that anything non-urgent is directed by email to HealthSchemes@sruc.ac.uk.

We have enjoyed working with the Biobest team over the years and they will be greatly missed. Luckily, we have access to some other excellent veterinary laboratories, and we will be utilising these moving forwards and this will not have an impact on what testing we can offer.

If you have any further queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Do you know your sucklers Johne's status?

In recent months we have been busy performing various testing on different farms, this has included screening for Johne's disease in some of our suckler herds with a mixed bag of results. The percentage of test positive animals (this is the number of animals that had a positive or doubtful result out of the number of animals tested on those occasions (not necessarily the cows in the herd)) has ranged from 0 to 18%.

Johne's is caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis*, infection normally occurs within the first 12 months of life, but disease is often not seen until the animals are over 2 years of age. Clinical disease is characterised by weight loss and scour. Unfortunately, once clinical signs develop the animal will not recover. Prior to clinical disease animals can have an increased chance of other disease such as lameness and mastitis and therefore impacting health, welfare and production efficiency. However, be aware, animals can be positive and shedding the bacteria prior to these signs being observed and therefore pose a risk to your herd.

Unfortunately, Johnes is quite a complicated disease, and a negative test result does not mean that animal is not infected. Disease control involves many different aspects of managing and reducing risks with the main aim being protecting replacement heifers from exposure to infection and preventing disease introduction. The longer disease is left undetected the greater the risk of spread within your herd. The current funding available via the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway can be utilised to help with the costs of testing if the BVD testing requirements have been met. Each individual farm will have a different level of disease and risk factors and therefore a tailored discussion with one of our vets is important to make a disease plan. If you would like more information on testing options or disease control, please get in touch.

Cross Counties Farm Vets 📞 01455 710935

Welford Branch: Elkington Lodge, Elkington Road, Welford, Northampton, NN6 6HE.

Lutterworth Branch: Elizabethan House, Lutterworth, Leicestershire, LE17 4NJ.

Broughton Astley Branch: 12 Swannington Road, Broughton Astley, Leicestershire, LE9 6TU.

Email: office@ccfarmvets.co.uk **Website:** www.ccfarmvets.co.uk **Facebook:** Cross Counties Farm Vets