



January 2026 Newsletter

CALF PNEUMONIA MEETING

We are pleased to announce our upcoming **Calf Pneumonia Meeting**, taking place on **Wednesday 7th January at 11:30am**.

This event is **open to everyone**, including clients and non-clients, and will be held at:
Rookery Farm, Upottery, Honiton, Devon, EX14 9PF

This informative session will feature a presentation from **Monika Ptaszynska**, Veterinary Technical Lead at MSD. Monika will review all important aspects of pneumonia including cause, treatment and vaccination protocols.

Following this, our vet **Chiara Domaingue** will demonstrate the latest diagnostic technique for early pneumonia detection: **TUS (thoracic ultrasound scanning)**. This innovative tool helps identify early lung damage, supporting more targeted and effective antibiotic treatments.

Lastly, **David Taylor PGDip RNutr** will provide an evidence-based overview of calf milk replacer and current best-practice treatment protocols. Please bring your milk replacer label if you wish for David to have a look at it.

Lunch will be provided for all attendees. To help us with catering, please reserve your place by calling the office on **01278 663399**.

We look forward to welcoming you and we are very grateful to all at Rookery Farm for hosting.

Please bring your milk replacer label if you wish for David to have a look at it.

DAIRY LAMENESS MEETING

Dairy Cattle Lameness Meeting – Tuesday 27th January at 11:30am

We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming meeting on **Lameness in Dairy Cattle**, taking place on **Tuesday 27th January at 11:30am** at **Sedgemoor Auction Centre**.

This session will include a **hot lunch** and a presentation from **Wouter Germis**, Head Vet Tech Services at Kela, who will be flying over from Belgium to share his expertise.

As an added benefit, **all FVSW farms attending will receive a bottle of non-milk-withdrawal anti-inflammatory**, provided it aligns with your herd health plan and lameness protocol.

This is an **open meeting**, and both clients and non-clients are very welcome.

As we anticipate a high turnout, we kindly ask you to **call our office to secure your place** on 01278 663399 and for catering purposes.

We look forward to seeing you there.

FVSW Practical Lambing Course

On **Wednesday 18th February** we will be holding a practical lambing course, location is still to be confirmed so keep an eye on the FarmVet SouthWest socials / WhatsApp groups for more information, and call the office to register interest.

ANIMAL HEALTH WELFARE PATHWAY

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) and Endemics Follow-up is a government scheme aiming to improve animal health and disease testing on farms, with a tailored approach from your private veterinarian.

Who can apply? What does the scheme require:

For cattle; Any person who has 11 or more beef or dairy cattle on their CPH.

Blood sampling 5+ animals from each management group for **BVD antibody** is required, the best animals to test are those between 9-18 months of age - any sex.

For sheep; Any person who has 21 or more sheep on their CPH. Dung sampling from 10-15 lambs are taken as individuals and then pooled *at the lab* for a **Worm Egg Count (WEC)**. If appropriate, worming treatment will be recommended and a post-drench WEC should be undertaken.

What can you achieve?

After and alongside testing for the mandatory diseases - (BVD antibody for cattle and WEC for sheep), you can carry out **ANY OTHER VETERINARY WORK** and testing that is **SUITABLE FOR YOUR FARM** (not just BVD or worms). Your vet will guide you through this process and write a report to summarise the AHWP and recommend any follow-up testing.

A follow-up visit can unlock further funding for disease testing and veterinary work.

HOW MUCH FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

- **£647** for a Pathway Review of **beef cattle**
- **£447** for a Pathway Review of **dairy cattle**
- **£574** for a Pathway Review of **sheep**
- **£258** for a (beef or dairy) cattle Endemics Follow-up if the BVD test result is **negative** and if a PI hunt is **not** carried out
- **£954** for a beef cattle Endemics Follow-up if the Review BVD test result is **positive** -or- a PI hunt is carried out on the recommendation of the vet, despite a negative Pathway BVD result
- **£1,844** for a dairy cattle Endemics Follow-up if the Review BVD test result is **positive** -or- a PI hunt is carried out on the recommendation of the vet, despite a negative Pathway BVD result
- **£658** for an Endemics Follow-up of sheep

Worms in Sheep - Monitoring & Best Practice

There have been several high counts on monitoring Worm Egg Counts (WEC) in the last month. In previous years, the cold weather would slow the lifecycle of the worms and lead to low burdens in December and January, but this has not been the case since before 2022.

Anthelmintic resistance is a serious problem in the sheep sector and must be thought of as a long-term problem. Good WEC sampling involves collecting around 10 fresh samples of roughly equal weight and bringing them to the practice the same day. This count can guide worming advice and acts as a pre-treatment value that can be used for comparison with a post-treatment check.

Ewes rarely need worming at routine points in the year, and it can be detrimental to the resistance patterns on the farm to blanket worm pregnant ewes.