



NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES

Friars Moor Livestock Health would like to wish all of our clients a very Happy New year and hope for a prosperous 2024. 2024 looks to be an exciting year for us, with the opening of our Closworth branch this month, and with building work storming on at West Stour, 2024 will also see the farm team move premises.

2023 started with some of the highest milk prices seen historically, but closed somewhat lower. That looks set to rise a bit in the coming months but is no doubt likely to fluctuate somewhere below the early 2023 prices. This brings it challenges, as do various industry initiatives such as the Red Tractor 'green module' and changing structures for farm payments. We would encourage everyone to sign up for funding through the animal health and welfare pathway, which is now available to non-BPS claimants and can be used towards a huge range of performance and health related investigations on farm. We always try to stay abreast and ahead of such curves and continue to think about the current and future pressures on the agricultural industry and how these will shape veterinary businesses.

A reduction in sheep scanning results in our area have indicated that our sheep farmers may be facing challenges this spring. Some may be due to vector borne disease such as Blue tongue and Schmallenberg, which are undoubtedly linked to warmer winters that we seem to be experiencing and aided by both insect migration and animal movements. If you are experiencing more than 2% empty at scanning or seeing evidence of reabsorptions, then talk to your vet about infectious disease testing. In 2023 APHA offered a range of surveillance testing on aborted fetuses and we expect there to be similar available in spring 2024.

If you sell animals for meat that will end up in export trade then from February 2024 you will require a VAN number. This involves a vet visit and some paperwork to inspect the entirety of your flock or herd for signs of disease. If you are a Red Tractor member, then this is not required.

YOUNG HERDSPERSON COURSE

This inaugural FMLH course has now been completed. It was a great team effort masterminded and organised by Becca. Huge thanks to all the farms who hosted the course in which we covered a year in the life of a cow, common conditions, mastitis and parlour functioning, lameness and mobility scoring, calving, nutrition and calf rearing.

The feedback has been incredibly positive, so we be running at least one course again next year.

Please keep providing us with your feedback and ideas of other areas which you feel would be important to be included both from the perspective of a young herds person and an employer.

Our Vet Paul Doran is qualified to deliver the AHDB healthy feet programme. Please call the office for more information.

AHDB

HEALTHY FEET
PROGRAMME




COMING SOON JAN 2024

We are very excited to announce the Friars Moor Livestock Health Closworth Branch, opening at Hamish's Farm shop & café.

9am-3pm Monday-Friday.

This will be a staffed branch with full pharmacy facility, to be run alongside our existing three branches and the new site at West Stour.

Please ring the normal number 01258 472314 to contact this branch.






NEW BUILD UPDATE

At the start of December, the whole of Friars Moor Team past and present, including our families, all came together for a fun day of mud sliding, hole digging and hedge planting along the new site's fence so a hedge can be laid in 7-10 years' time. It was a day full of laughter, good food and plenty of mud... Even the rain held off, for most of the day.

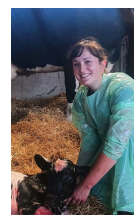
The plants are all looking healthy so far, and enjoying the wet weather. For now, no watering is required.

The builders have been hard at work and with ambient temperature still above 5 degrees, bricks were laid at speed (and accuracy J). All external and internal walls are at first floor level and the ceiling is now being laid for the top floor to be built. In the coming weeks the electricity company is expected to connect us to the grid, water connection will be secured and there is still plenty of groundwork to do all around the building as and when the weather gets colder. Exciting progress is being made and so far we are on track for a late summer handover of the build. Don't miss our regular (and quite silly) video updates on social media.

STAFF UPDATE

We are sadly saying goodbye to Anais this month. Anais is returning to Ireland where she studied to throw herself into a calving season. We will really miss her enthusiasm and sense of humour. Alice will not be returning after her maternity leave. We wish her all the best in her next chapter.

There are also two new faces to the team. Kate, who has joined as our new lab technician at Sturminster and Caz who will be stationed at the new Closworth branch.



BLUETONGUE

Bluetongue has been confirmed in Kent and Norfolk. A 10km temporary control zone around each outbreak has been put in place to minimise spread of disease and to determine if there has been any local spread.

Livestock keepers must remain vigilant. Bluetongue can affect species including sheep, cattle, deer, goats and camelids. It does not affect humans/food but can result in prolonged movement restrictions. Clinical signs include ulcers in the mouth and nose, swelling of head and coronary band and discharge from the eyes and nose.

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the practice on 01258472314. You can also go to the GOV website for guidance:

[Bluetongue: how to spot and report the disease – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

BLOCK CALVING PRE CALVING VISITS

Pre calving visits to optimise calf rearing success this spring. Before calving starts take the time for a fresh look at calf health and performance.

To include discussion of:

- Before calving starts, take the time for a fresh look at calf health and performance.
- Involve your calf rearing team.
- Choose a specific area of calf health area to discuss and together we can focus on how to improve it.
- Are colostrum and milk feeding protocols growing your calves well?
- Is disease management optimal?
- Do calves transition well through weaning?

A typical visit will take an hour. There is £50 of funding towards a visit for farms new to this initiative.

"Having Lucy come and discuss protocols with the team allowed good discussion and good practice followed!" Barnes, Rhodehouse

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL FRIARS MOOR FESTIVE DRINKS



MONDAY 15TH JANUARY 7:30pm onwards

Marnhull Legion, Sodom Lane, Marnhull DT10 1HR

TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY 7:30pm onwards

The Talbot, Iwerne Minster, Blandford Forum, DT11 8QN

OPENING NIGHT AT OUR CLOSOWORTH BRANCH:

WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 6:30pm onwards

at Hamish's Farm shop & café in Closworth, BA22 9RF

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

PRACTICAL LAMBING COURSE

11
JAN

Held at a farm near Sturminster Newton – details given on booking. Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. **Thursday 11th January 2024, 10am–4pm.** Participants will learn how to prepare their flock for lambing. Using a lambing simulator, we will teach people when and how to safely intervene with a lambing ewe. **£100 inc VAT, lunch included.**

SHEEP MEETING

31
JAN

Preparation for lambing and the coming season. Suitable for all medium and large scale commercial flocks. **Wednesday 31st January at 6pm at the Coppleridge Inn, Motcombe**

MASTERING MEDICINES

21
FEB

The course will include identifying the condition you are treating, the best medicine to administer, the dose rate, route of administration and the withdrawal periods and storage and disposal. **Wednesday 21st February. Locations TBC.**

MILKSURE

7
MAR

This course focuses on how medicines are used on dairy farms and how increasing awareness of medicines usage can reduce antibiotic usage and decrease the risk of bulk tank failures. **Thursday 7th March, 11am–1pm. Location TBC.** Part one will be undertaken in a group and part two on your own farm with a vet.

ROMANIAN MASTERING MEDICINES

19
MAR

The course will be held in Romanian. The course will include identifying the condition you are treating, the best medicine to administer, the dose rate, route of administration and the withdrawal periods and storage and disposal. **Wednesday 19th March. Locations TBC.**

PRACTICAL AI COURSE

25
MAR

DAY 1: Monday 25th March @ Sturminster branch. DAY 2: Tuesday 26th March – Location TBC. DAY 3: Wednesday 27th March – Location TBC. This is a three-day training course, which consists of one theory training day followed by two practical training days.

To add yourself to any interest lists of courses not already in the diary or for more information/to book on our current courses please contact the farm office on 01258472314 or email us at farmoffice@friarsmoorlivestockhealth.co.uk