



### Introducing Kieran Avery

For those of you who have not already met our new Farm Animal vet, this is Kieran who joined the Farm Animal team in January. Kieran is a Bristol graduate and came highly recommended by another XLVets practice.

It's great to have Kieran on board and we are sure he will soon become a popular addition to the Larkmead team.

### ATTENTION ALL ASSURED PIG PRODUCERS!



Red Tractor  
Farm Assurance



The Red Tractor Farm Assurance Scheme standard regarding teeth reduction in neonatal piglets has been amended and comes into effect immediately (the changes are shown in red below).

A minor non-conformance will be recorded on your QVVR form for every bullet point not adhered to. If 4 or more of the bullet points are not observed, then a major non-conformance will be recorded

Tooth clipping or grinding must only be carried out in accordance with the following:

- decisions to undertake the reduction of sharp corner teeth must be made at the individual litter / **batch** level rather than as a uniform policy across the whole herd
- only the minimal removal of the tips of sharp corner teeth is permitted and the pulp cavity must not be exposed
- only properly trained, named individuals may perform the operation and a record must be held of those individuals and their training
- **records must be kept of any outbreaks of facial-scarring / udder damage which include the date, number of pigs affected, and pen/building type**
- the same equipment must not be used to undertake teeth clipping and tail docking
- there must be a specific farm policy included within the Veterinary Health Plan which covers these points.

*The use of grinders is to be encouraged as these allow better control of the amount of the teeth which is removed and are less likely to cause splintering of the teeth.*

#### NewsFlash – Duphapen+Strep (Pfizer)

For those of you who use Duphapen + Strep., the licence has now changed from 'ambient storage' to 'refrigerated storage'. This means that the shelf life is now 24 months. (Opened bottles must be used up in 28 days).

## Milk Fever – a Spring Disease

Many of you will be approaching spring calving. Clinical milk fever affects 4-9% of dairy cows, signs are readily noticed and immediate treatment is required, but these cases serve as an indicator that other cows in the herd could be suffering at a subclinical level where up to 40% animals can be affected. Low calcium (hypocalcaemia) can increase the risk of dystocia by three times, and the level of mastitis following lactation by eight times. It is not just dairy cows that are affected; suckler cows can also be susceptible.

The onset of lactation increases calcium requirements by 80g/day. The ability of a cow to draw on her own reserves of calcium influences whether or not milk fever occurs. Predisposing factors include a sudden increase in grass availability, sudden changes to forage quality, lack of dietary acidification and a body condition score greater than 3.5

Clinical and subclinical milk fever can, to a large extent, be prevented through transition cow dietary management and nutrition. However invariably there are cases where the risk of milk fever is increased. High yielding multiparous cows and those with a previous history of milk fever are counted amongst this at risk group.

For those groups or individuals at risk of milk fever, oral calcium can be supplied prior to the risk period. There is a new product on the market called **Bovikalc** which is an oral calcium supplement bolus. It provides 42g of available calcium. Calcium chloride is released rapidly to raise calcium levels quickly, and calcium sulphate provides a sustained supply of calcium over a prolonged period. In addition an acidifying effect helps the cow to mobilise her own calcium reserves. This can be much more effective than a subcutaneous injection of calcium.

### **To reduce the risk of milk fever:**

- give the first bolus immediately prior to calving
- give the second bolus immediately after calving
- follow up with 2 further boluses at 12-15 hour intervals as necessary

### **Following treatment of a clinical case:**

- Give the first bolus 2-3 hours after calcium injection
- give the second bolus 12-15 hours later



**Do contact us at the surgery to speak to one of the vets if you need any more information.**

## Preparation for Turnout



As we come to the end of January it is time to start thinking about preparation for turnout. If you use **Huskvac** to help control lungworm, please get your orders in early as the vaccine can be in short supply. Remember that youngstock require 2 doses of the vaccine 4 weeks apart. Wormers given at the time of vaccination will stop Huskvac from working, this is particularly important in the case of boluses and long acting products. Ideally cattle should not be wormed for up to 8 weeks prior to vaccination or up to 2 weeks after the second dose. If in doubt speak to your vet.

BVD and Lepto vaccines are also often given before turnout; if you need to place an order please get in touch. Remember that unvaccinated animals (i.e. maiden heifers or herds that have not vaccinated before) require 2 doses 4 weeks apart; otherwise it is just an annual booster. Ideally BVD and Lepto vaccination should be complete a couple of weeks prior to service.

**Call the practice on 01491 651479 to place your orders**