

The Minster Veterinary Practice Poultry Newsletter – December 2011



Merry Christmas!!!

This year has been a difficult year for many of you due to the global economic situation, the pressure from customers/retailers and the changes in legislation. **We would like to thank you for your continued support during 2011 and we look forward to working together during 2012.**

Post in time for Christmas!

If you need to post laboratory samples over the Christmas period, please avoid doing it over the Christmas week. Under the current salmonella legislation, samples need to be sent for testing on the day of the sampling and the testing needs to start within 4 days of collection of the samples. If the sample is delayed in the post for more than 4 days, then a repeat sample will have to be taken.

In exceptional circumstances, when samples cannot be sent within 25 hours of being taken, they must be kept at 4°C until they are sent to a laboratory. Samples must not be frozen. Samples **MUST** be submitted within 48 hours of being taken, otherwise they will not be suitable for testing and a repeat sample will have to be taken.

The last posting date for first class mail before Christmas is 20.12.2011. For the most up to date information and services, please log into the royal mail website:

<http://www2.royalmail.com/christmas-last-posting-dates>



Vaccine and routine medication orders

Courier services are not in operation during Bank Holidays and therefore we would be grateful if you could place **your vaccine and drug orders by Monday 12.12.2011.** Most vaccine and drug companies will close from Mid December until the New Year and therefore planning in advance will guarantee that you get your products when you need them.

Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme (FFIS)

What is it?

Part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). £20m of EU money to improve farm efficiency and animal welfare and to reduce the environmental impact of farming. Basically you can get a grant to help with an on-farm improvement.

When is it running?

The first round of applications are to run between 16/11/11 and 17/1/12. They will run an application process every 4 months after that until 2013, however once the money is gone it will wind up.

What can I apply for?

You are applying for a capital grant to make an improvement to your farm. This grant will be for up to 40% of the value of the item and will be in the range of £2,500-£25,000. The item must not be considered industry standard and must not be to fulfil a legal obligation. One of the items they have named in relation to poultry is a heat exchanger.



NEWS

Opening times

As usual, the poultry vets will be available 24/7 over the Christmas period on any of the numbers on the bottom of this page. The offices will be closed on **Monday 26th, Tuesday 27th December and Monday 2nd January**



SURGERIES

The Veterinary Surgery
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Herriot House
Howton
Hereford
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Tel: 01981 241320
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LE12 5RA
Tel: 01159 516551
Fax: 01159 516550

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www.minstervets.co.uk

How do I get started?

- Read the application leaflet:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/PB13678-rdpe-ffis-applicanhandbook.pdf>
- Look at the RDPE website to get a contact number to speak to your local advisor from the RDPE.

You can also speak to Christian, one of the Hereford vets (he has experience of approving these grants).

You will need a Veterinary Health Plan and visit if you are making a claim that involves an improvement to Animal Health and Welfare.

Monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium

Following the recent Yorkshire Egg Producers meeting we had a number of queries regarding Monophasic Salmonella Typhimurium and how to prevent it in laying flocks. These Salmonella strains, which cannot be fully typed by conventional serotyping, have shown the ability to spread rapidly in food animals and humans in many countries. This has led to fears that this strain may become a successor to the previous epidemic strain, *S. Typhimurium* DT104, if immediate action is not taken.

In the UK there are a significant number of isolations from pigs and cattle, as well as occasional cases in sheep, horses, dogs and zoo animals. It is likely that pigs are the main species involved in the evolution of these strains.

As with any bacterial infection, prevention starts by reducing the risk of infection and this can be achieved through good biosecurity and avoiding mixing species (particularly pigs and poultry) in the same site.

Secondly, the use of commercial Salmonella Typhimurium vaccines in rear may help to further prevent the infection.

If you have any questions regarding your particular situation, do not hesitate to contact one of the poultry vets to discuss your circumstances.

BFREPA 2011

Thank you to those who came to our stand at the BFREPA. This year Mike Clark and Alastair Johnston were the designated vets to represent the Practice at this annual event.

Did you know?

It is now 6 months that we started the "did you know" section. In order to win a free veterinary visit and health plan for your flock (including blood sampling and post mortem examination) please send the right answers to the questions below by E-mail to Val Waudby:

(val.waudby@minstervets.co.uk) stating in the title "Newsletter Competition" by 15th January 2012. The winner will be contacted by phone and announced in the February 2012 Newsletter.

Questions:

1. How old is The Minster Veterinary Practice?
2. How many departments does Minster Veterinary Practice have?
3. How many Royal College Certificates are held by the Poultry Team?

GOOD LUCK!



Please visit our NEW Vets supply shop
www.vetsupplyshop.com