

NEWSLETTER

August 2019

**McMurtry
& Harding**
veterinary practice

Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme: The Countryside Productivity Small Grant scheme Round 2 is now open. Farmers can apply for funding towards specific items. The grants are for 40% of the standard cost of these items for a minimum of £3000 up to a maximum of £12000. These items include the following:

- Mobile or fixed cattle handling systems
- Cattle crush (self locking head yoke) and foot trimming crushes
- Squeeze crush (hydraulic or manual operation)
- Head scoop
- Cattle auto drafting gate (linked to EID system)
- Cluster flush system
- Automated footbath
- Heat detection (collar or ankle band OR bull/eartag system)
- Badger proof feeding troughs and lick holders
- Weighing equipment
- Calving gates
- Mobile or fixed sheep handling systems
- Electronic sheep weighing crates
- Sheep conveyor system

All the items listed above can have a significant positive effect on cattle and sheep health and welfare and productivity. We have written many letters to support successful applications in the past so please let us know if that is something you'd like us to do. Speak to your herd/flock vet about which equipment could have the maximum positive impact on health, welfare and productivity on your farm.

National Johne's Management Plan – Phase 2: Following the successful implementation of phase 1 of the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) phase 2 is due to be completed by 31st October 2019.

Johne's disease can have significant detrimental effects on the physical and economic performance of a dairy herd. Johne's positive cows are twice as likely to have a SCC >200k and are twice as likely to have a milk yield 25% below the herd average. High disease incidence can cost in excess of 1/2ppl with costs remaining high until the disease can be brought under control.

Extensive experience has demonstrated that if a rigorous control program is implemented and applied robustly Johne's disease CAN be brought under control.



Directors

Daniel Harding BVSc

Stephen Trethewey BVetMed

Michael Colgan MA VetMB

Chris Wilkins BVetMed MRCVS

The plans we created with you during the past couple of years require reviewing and updating. We can assess the prevalence of Johne's disease on your farm based on your test results and discuss which planned changes have been made and which have been more difficult to implement.

Four of our vets (Shrea, Amy, Rebecca and Chris) are BCVA accredited Johne's veterinary advisors.

One of us will review and update your Johne's plan and be able to sign off the NJMP form for your farm by 31st October 2019



Orbeseal: Following recent supply issues Orbeseal is now back available. Please contact the surgery to place your order so we can ensure appropriate stock levels and avoid disappointment.

Enzovax: We are aware of impending supply issues of Enzovax this year. We have ring fenced a supply of Cevac Chlamydia vaccine as a replacement. Cevac Chlamydia can be used as a direct replacement for Enzovax. It is licensed for use at the same time as Toxovax but the two vaccines cannot be mixed and should be given in different sites.

Gut worm bulk milk sampling: We now have bulk milk sampling kits for the detection of Ostertagia (the most common form of gut worm) antibodies. The kits are provided by Norbrook free of charge and can help aid decision making around anthelmintic treatments for dairy cattle this year. If you have provided a sample in previous years Chris can provide you with the results so we can compare year on year.

Ashbourne Show: We will have a stand at Ashbourne show this year and would love to see you there for a chat and a brew. Good luck to all those competing in the livestock classes!!

New vet: We are delighted to welcome Rachel Oven to our team of large animal vets. Rachel was born and bred in Ashbourne and will be known to many of you through her family farming connections and active membership of local young farmer clubs. I'm sure you will all give her a warm welcome as she settles into practice life.

I hope you find this newsletter useful and I'd like to apologise to any clients I subjected to the cricket world cup (and now the Ashes) during visits in the last couple of months!!

Chris



Directors

Daniel Harding BVSc

Stephen Trethewey BVetMed

Michael Colgan MA VetMB

Chris Wilkins BVetMed MRCVS