

FARM NEWS

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Did you know Drove Farm Vets now offer a Vet Tech service?



Drove Farm Vets have a new Vet Tech Service to offer our clients extra labour to help improve and maintain high herd/flock health. Our vet tech works alongside our clinical vets to deliver a high quality service to our clients.

Life on farm is getting busier, sometimes with less labour available which can leave our farmers with less time to effectively implement some health care strategies.

Our Vet Tech service will be headed up by Lindsay Rummig, a local beef and sheep farmer. Many of you may already be familiar with Lindsay, as she has worked in the farm office for the last three years.

Working closely with the vet team we are able to provide the following services to ensure profitability and efficiency within your herd or flock:

Vaccination

Vaccination of your herd/flock can be a very stressful and time consuming event. Our trained Vet Tech is available to help with this service, ensuring the correct animals are vaccinated, via the correct route.

Suitable reports will be produced for your medicine records including ear tag numbers and all relevant requirements.

Any second doses and annual boosters will be automatically booked into our calendar.

Sampling

A variety of sampling for diagnostic testing can be performed by our VetTech. This may include blood sampling or collecting sterile milk samples at convenient times for you.

Mobility Scoring

Mobility scoring is often now a mandatory requirement as part of your milk contract. Lindsay is a registered mobility scorer (RoMS) and has had training through DairyCo and can perform regular mobility scoring sessions or independent annual assessments.

Following our visit, a report will be generated and emailed to you for your records. Liaising with your routine

vet, Lindsay will offer suggestions on improving lameness within your herd. Several of our dairy clients are already utilising this service.

Body condition scoring (BCS)

Optimising body condition of your herd will help optimise profitability. BCS is a practical means of assessing the nutritional status of your herd.

Dairy cows have two crucial periods for assessment of body condition; at calving and during early lactation. Achieving correct body condition at calving is important in order to avoid calving difficulties and losses. While in early lactation it is important to prevent excessive weight loss when meeting the extra nutritional demands of high yielding cows.

Our Vet Tech is able to offer BCS which can help monitor changes that impact on health and fertility. A report generated will help flag individual cows that may need extra attention.

Disbudding

Our disbudding service has been very popular since its launch, with farmer's recognising the advantages of extra help with this management practice.

Our Vet Tech can quickly and efficiently disbud batches of calves to help save labour on your farm.

Use of pain relief at this time has been shown to reduce stress and help maintain feed intake which is vital for achieving target DLWG.

Parasite monitoring and control

Regular worm egg counts (WEC) are vital to reduce the unnecessary use and cost of wormers. Our Vet tech is a fully qualified SQP and Animal Health Advisor which enables her to utilise WEC results and recommend appropriate treatment protocols.

Our Vet Tech is also available to worm your herd/flock and apply fly control products throughout the season.

Youngstock services

Our Vet Tech can provide a bespoke youngstock service for monitoring the health and growth rates of your future herd. This will include advice on colostrum management, blood sampling and weighbanding of your calves.

Inputting data into our Calf Tracker Programme will generate visual reports to assess daily live weight gain and benchmarking against other farms.

Working alongside our clinical vets, our Vet Tech will suggest management changes that will directly impact on daily live weight gains to help you achieve industry based targets.

Teat scoring

Teat scoring performed regularly can highlight problems with machinery issues or milking practice before there is a huge problem.

Our VetTech can provide this service with written reports, building up data to analyse and act on if required.

Handling equipment and labour

Drove Farm Vets have handling equipment available for hire along with our trained VetTech when facilities and staff are lacking.

Having the correct equipment and facilities and enough staff on the day ensures Tb test for example run smoothly and efficiently making life that bit easier.

If you are interested in finding out more about our range of Vet Tech services and how it may fit in on your farm, please ring the farm office and ask to speak to either Lindsay or a member of the Farm Vet Team. ■