



ROWCLIFFE

VETERINARY PRACTICE

Newsletter February 2025

Welcome to the new Rowcliffe Vets newsletter!

Saving time and paper, we are moving to an online format to pass on information about disease, upcoming events, and any changes to prescriptions or medicines.

As always, we are open to feedback, so please let us know your thoughts! If there is a particular topic you feel we should explore, tell one of our vets, give us a call, or drop us an email at eleanor.rowcliffe@gmail.com

Schmallenburg

A December update from the SRUC lab put Schmallenburg in the spotlight. There were a significant number of cases seen in parts of England and Wales in the 2023/24 lambing and calving season.

As a practice, we are not aware of many cases in our area, but we appreciate some may have not been reported. Data shows Scotland to have been largely unaffected too. However, recent surveillance testing results show evidence of infection in animals in Dumfries and Galloway.

We ask that you inform us of any of the following...

- [Foetal deformities, e.g. fused or twisted joints, domed skull](#)
- [High barren rate](#)
- [Abortion and still birth](#)
- [Other signs of clinical disease, such as fever, milk drop, loss of condition](#)

Free testing for SBV.

Please contact us if you would like to submit samples for investigation. Submitting a foetus and placenta also presents the opportunity to test for other causes of abortion.

We would like to remind you that this information is for surveillance. Having Schmallenberg on your farm would not result in any form of restrictions on trade.



Changes to Vet Medicine Regulations

New regulations emphasise the importance of avoiding the misuse of antibiotics, including over-use, and the use of the wrong group of antibiotics. The spotlight will be on stopping prophylactic administration. This means that, other than in exceptional circumstances, we cannot administer antibiotics to an animal(s) that does not have clinical signs of disease, or to prevent disease.

“A veterinary surgeon may not prescribe a veterinary medicinal product which is an antibiotic for prophylactic purposes.”

From your perspective, these changes will mean some extra questions from us when you purchase antibiotic medications. In some cases, we may want to have a more in-depth discussion with you about what changes we can make to management that will reduce the need for antibiotics.

Red Tractor – new dairy technical briefing

Keeping up with new challenges and recent research, Red Tractor continually review and update their standards. It is important that both you and we, as your vets, take note of any changes so that we don't get caught out.

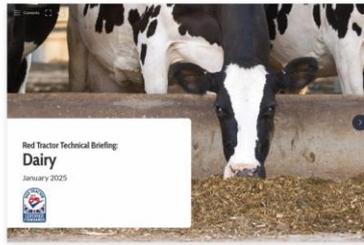
Key information on changes effective from 1st of February...

Recent legislative changes to Veterinary Medicine Regulations need to be acknowledged in assurance requirements.

- Stricter rules on the use of antibiotics in animals that are not sick, in an attempt to prevent illness (prophylaxis).
- Greater record keeping by vets with regards to prescribing medications.
- Chlorate residues

These changes may mean that we need to update your health plan. Do not hesitate to discuss any aspect of these changes with us.

Follow this link <https://redtractor.turtl.co/story/technical-briefing-dairy-january-2025/page/1> to find out more.



Flock Health Ltd survey

To improve awareness of lambing practices, disease issues, and medicine usage at lambing time, Flock Health Ltd have sent out some quick questions to be answered by our sheep clients.

If you have 5 minutes, it would be great to see some participation in this research. Follow the link below:

<https://flockhealth.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ad633a349f024bb334da55e99&id=88d2ea738b&e=ea0ab824e3>