



# Farm Veterinary Solutions

**Newsletter**  
Spring 2018

A member of  **Farm**

**Inside this issue:**

**Apha TB Testing Update**

Page 2

**Critically Important Antibiotics (CIAs) Update and Alternatives**

Page 4

**How Successful Has Your Lambing Season Been?**

Page 6

**Pre-Breeding Bull Fertility Test**

Page 8

# PARTY TIME!

You know how we all enjoy a good party! Well after a particularly tough and busy Spring we are ready for another one! Following on from the success of our 10 year celebratory party we are having a social at **Pete Featherstone's farm between Barsby and Gaddesby on the evening of Friday 11th May.**

**Free bar, live music and a hog roast - Thanks Pete - Hope you know what you have let yourself in for!**

Please let us know if you are coming along so we can bring enough pig and beer! Hope to see you all there.

**RSVP by 4th May to 01664 567481 or [tb@rutlandvets.co.uk](mailto:tb@rutlandvets.co.uk)**





# APHA TB TESTING UPDATE

**As from the beginning of 2018 the counties in the East of the TB Edge area: Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Northants will be required to have a radial whole herd test if they are within 3km of a TB outbreak. Further West in Derbyshire and parts of Warwickshire, herds will move to a 6-monthly routine whole herd test rather than a yearly test.**

This will further increase the amount of testing that we are currently doing and thereby necessitate your cooperation in booking in your tests. The earlier you can let us know the more likely it is that we will be able accommodate your chosen testing date.

We endeavor to test a minimum of 30 head per hour so having 3 people to help, 2 to drive the cattle and a scribe greatly speeds up the process, as well as a modern robust handling facility. Quiet cattle also help! We have had two clients hospitalised since the last newsletter so please take it seriously.

**On Valentine's Day APHA** published the latest annual TB outbreak figures for the year up to November 2017 and sadly it makes grim reading. **Far from getting on top of the job it seems TB is getting away from us and marching eastward, hence the stricter controls on breakdowns to avoid disease becoming endemic in the region.** There was a national rise from 2016 of 10% in new TB cases and an alarming 38% rise in the Edge area.

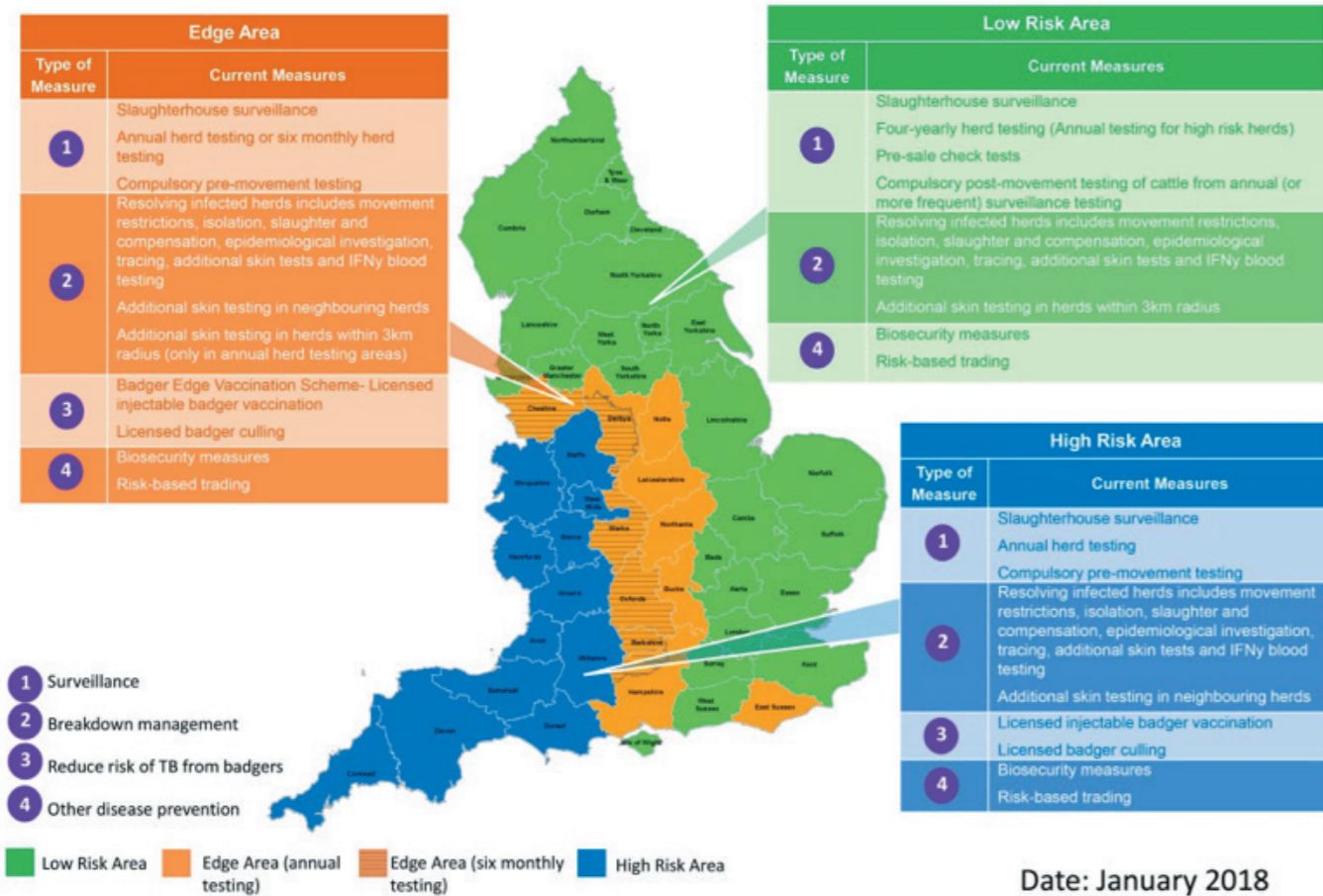
At this time of year as, an adjunct to the TB test and whilst the cattle are all being handled, it provides an opportune time to gather a snap shot of other diseases that may be active in your herd. Last years homebred Spring born yearlings are a perfect age to blood test. They have only been alive for a year so any active diseases on your farm will be revealed in

a positive antibody titre in their blood. Depending on the farm and their vaccination status we can test for BVD, Leptospirosis, IBR, RSV, PI3, lungworm and liver fluke. Taking blood from 5 or 6 yearlings at the second visit is all that is required and one which the vets are very able to do, adding little time to the test.

Results take about 10 days and then we are able to help manage whatever diseases are revealed and improve subsequent herd productivity. Hopefully it flags up no bugs of any type, however this is usually the exception! For those of you already on or thinking about disease accreditation schemes it also provides a great opportunity for whole herd testing.



## Working towards bovine TB free status in England





# CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS (CIAS) UPDATE AND ALTERNATIVES

Zoe Hebblethwaite MRCVS

CIAs are those antibiotics listed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that are deemed important for use in human medicine, so their use in veterinary medicine is also restricted to help reduce the risk of bacteria developing resistance. The European Medicine Agency (EMA) further

classified antibiotics into 2 classes based on research of resistance development following use in animals. This is supported by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and used to publish guidance like RUMA – Responsible use of medicines in agriculture alliance.

## Category 1:

Low/limited risk to public health if used following current responsibility guidelines.

1. **Macrolides**
2. **Penicillin**
3. **Tetracyclines**

## Category 2:

Risk to public health from veterinary use is only acceptable when specific restrictions apply; used only when no alternative treatment or antibiotic is indicated for species/disease or response is expected to be poor.

1. **Fluoroquinolones** - Floxacins; Injectable Marbocyl/ Marbox, Baytril, A180
2. **Third generation cephalosporins** - Ceftiofur; Injectable Naxcel, Excenel, Cevaxel, Readycef
3. **Fourth generation cephalosporins** - Cefquinome; Intramammary or injectable Cefimam, Cephaguard, Cobactan
4. **Colistin** - Polymyxin; Parenteral Coliscour, Colibird

# USES AND ALTERNATIVES

**Fluoroquinolones A180/Marbocyl are frequently used for pneumonia and toxic mastitis.**

## Alternatives:

### Calf pneumonia

- Draxxin – category 1 antibiotic
- Florkem/Nuflor
- Anti-inflammatory also very important; e.g. Metacam S/C

### Toxic mastitis

- Anti-inflammatory mainstay of treatment; Flunixin IV (24hour milk withhold) or Metacam IV or SC (5day milk)
- Rumen pump; fluid therapy and rumen booster (40 litres tepid water daily)
- Strip out affected quarter(s) +/- Oxytocin if required for milk let down
- Norodine IV for 3 consecutive days (48hour milk withhold)

## Metritis (dirty cows)/ Lameness

**The third generation cephalosporins (Naxcel/Excenel) have been frequently used due to their 0 milk withdrawal and duration of action**

Alternatives require a 3+ day course:

- Combiclav (60hr milk)
- Pen & Strep (60hr milk)
- Betamox (24hr milk)/Betamox LA (79hr milk)
- Ceporex (0 day milk) currently unavailable due to European shortage

**Fourth generation cephalosporins - These are used in some lactating and dry cow tubes.**

Alternatives for broad spectrum lactating cow tubes include Tetra Delta, Multiject, Combiclav and Mastiplan. Where bacteria is known to be gram positive i.e. streptococcus/staphylococcus; mamyzin injectable/Orbenin LC.

Alternatives for dry cow therapy (DCT): Moving from blanket to selective dry cow therapy based on individual cow somatic cell count (SCC) reduces antibiotic usage. It requires milk recording and SCC threshold for farms to be determined and dictates whether each cow receives teat sealant only (Orbeseal), or sealant and antibiotic. If an antibiotic is required broad spectrum tubes available include Cefshot and Ubro Red, or for gram positives Orbenin/Bovaclox Xtra dry cow tubes are alternatives to category 2 use.

Current targets published by RUMA aim to reduce overall use of antibiotics by 20% in the dairy and 10% in the beef sector by 2020. Across the sectors the aim is a reduction of 50% in the use of high priority CIAs from 2016 - 2020.

Please speak to the vets over the phone or whilst on visits about your treatment protocols and reducing antibiotic usage on your farms through management and disease prevention.

**Please speak to the vets over the phone or whilst on visits about your treatment protocols and reducing antibiotic usage on your farms through management and disease prevention.**

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES IN AGRICULTURE ALLIANCE

**ruma**





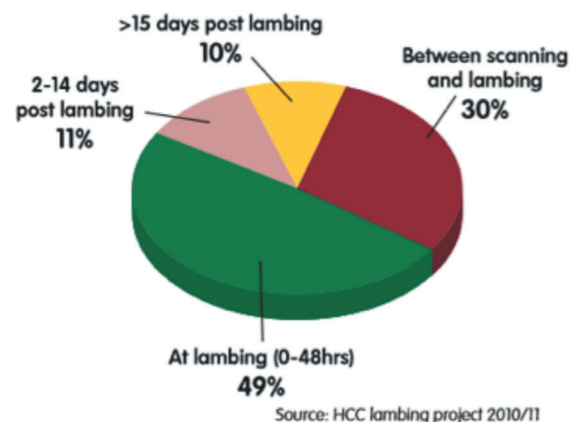
# HOW SUCCESSFUL HAS YOUR LAMBING SEASON BEEN?

Rebecca Davenport MRCVS

Many of our clients are well underway with lambing and as the weather improves it is great to see many of the new arrivals out in the field. All the hard work over the last year; deciding which ewes to take forward for your breeding flock, preparing the rams, tugging and scanning, to name a few key time points, culminate in a rewarding but often busy few weeks at lambing time. The importance of recording the number of lambs produced is vital for a profitable business and whilst sometimes difficult to remember to do in the early hours of the morning or when sorting out which lamb belongs to which ewe, recording the number and reason for losses can really help identify key areas that could be improved.



Figure 1: When losses occur (% of total losses)



## When do losses occur?

A third of losses can often go unnoticed and these occur between the time of scanning and lambing. Reabsorption of lambs or abortions can lead to an increase in barren ewe rate. If numbers increase >2% of your flock size, then it is important to investigate for infectious causes of abortion. The most common being toxoplasmosis and enzootic abortion. For an abortion investigation a blood sample from the ewe, the placenta and foetal stomach contents are required. Additionally, at the end of lambing barren ewes can be blood sampled to assess disease status. These two causes of abortion can be prevented by vaccinating your flock.



## Nearly a half of losses occur within the first 48 hours of birth.

This is a key time to record reasons for the deaths. Some examples of losses include stillbirth, difficult lambing, physical abnormalities, mis-mothering, hypothermia, starvation and diseases such as watery mouth. Factors such as the weather, predation, parasites and ewe health may have more impact on lamb losses greater than two days old.

Also recording diseases that affect the ewes such as twin lamb disease, hypocalcaemia, hypomagnesaemia, retained cleansing, mastitis and prolapses helps make decisions for the following year as to whether they are fit for breeding or if nutritional aspects of your system need reviewing.

## Reproductive performance targets for commercial lowland flocks

Factor	Target
Barren rate	<2%
Scanning %	>180%
Ewe mortality	<3%
Lambs turned out @48 hours	<8% loss of total scanned
Lambs weaned	<12% loss
Lambs reared/ewe served	>160%



## FLOCK CHECK 2018: From 1st March to 21st July, MSD are providing subsidised testing to screen for Toxoplasma gondii and Chlamydophila abortus in 6-8 barren/aborted ewes from unvaccinated flocks.

If you are interested in discussing your results from this year, creating a flock health plan to support future years or learn more about Flock Check 2018, please contact the Melton Branch on **01664 567481** to discuss further with one of our vets.



# PRE-BREEDING BULL FERTILITY TEST

William Colmenares MRCVS

Soon we will have our spring calving cows ready to go with the bull again, so, is time to ask yourself:

## Is my champion bull ready to go?

**Why must you test your bull? – A fertile bull + fertile cows = More saleable kg beef/year**

It is estimated 20% of the bulls in an unselected population have inadequate semen quality and/or physical soundness, this doesn't mean that the bulls don't get any cows in calf but suggest that they are likely to have a reduced fertility. If this happens the calving season extends, and an extended calving pattern is associated with increased calf disease e.g. scours, pneumonia, etc. Which overall reduces the kilos of beef produced per cow per year, and make a more variable age bunch of calves, which makes management more expensive and less profitable on sales.



## What a bull pre-breeding examination involves:

- General physical exam (Eyes, dentition, feet and limbs, etc.)
- Scrotal exam and measurement (it is quite related to the bull fertility, early maturity of the bull's daughters)
- Rectal exam to feel accessory sex glands (searching for a possible inflammation or abnormality that could affect the bull fertility)
- Collection and examination of semen under microscope (evaluation of individual motility, morphological abnormalities, Etc.)

## When the examination must be carried out:

At least 45-60 days before you expect your bulls to go with the cows is the right time to test your bulls. It allows you in the case the bull is considered sub-fertile the bull could be re-check 6-8 weeks later and as well you will have time enough to get another bull if needed.

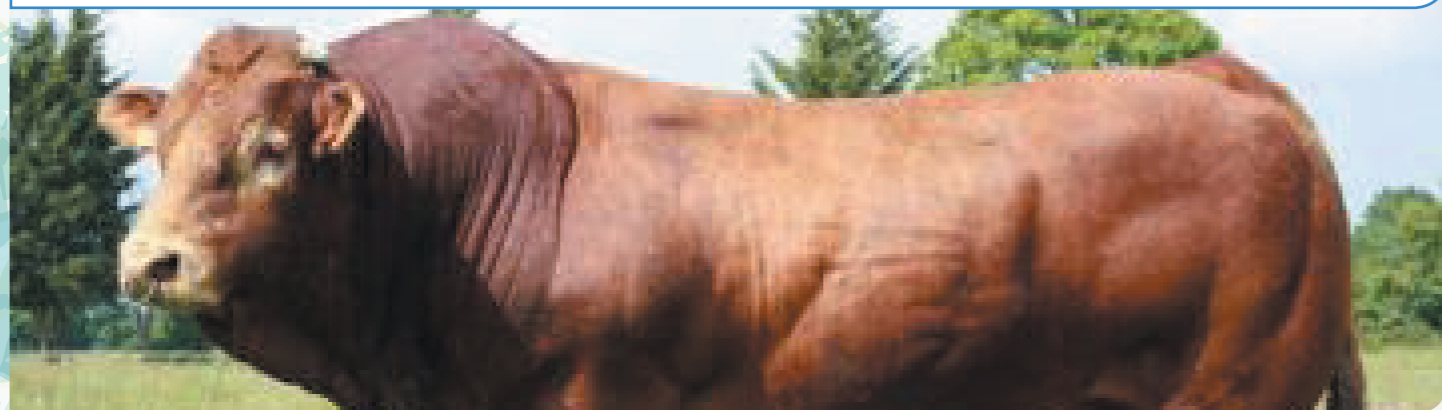
## What we need:

High respect and care must be paid when you are handling bulls in order to avoid injury to animals or the operators.

A crush where the bull can be restraint safely, with a side door or access to the bottom side of the bull is desirable in order to make the procedure safe and comfortable for the animal.

Semen has to be checked whilst still warm so an electricity point is needed, ideally close to the crush or in the nearest building on cold days.

**Please contact us and let us check your Champion!!**



# PHONE SYSTEM

We are currently changing our phone system in all of our branches, hopefully by the time you read this the new system will be up and running. With the new system you will be asked to press 2 to get hold of the farm office team directly. This will prevent our farm having to be placed on hold or passed around on the phone system with inevitable waiting and on hold music!

You can continue to ring on the same numbers – either **01664 567481** or **01572 823357/822399**.

**The farm office team are available 08.30 to 16.30 Monday to Friday -**

Outside these times, all emergency and urgent calls will be dealt with by a companion animal staff member and non-urgent enquiries will be passed onto the farm team to deal with the next day.

# STAFF NEWS

## Farm Veterinary Solutions – TB coordinator

To deal with the increased number of tests and general TB queries we are pleased to announce that Vicky Fowler has now joined us as our new TB coordinator.

This new role has been created to work alongside our existing farm office team at the Melton branch, but with a dedicated focus on booking TB visits and liaising with APHA and XL Farmcare on behalf of our farm clients.

Vicky has a strong understanding of the local area, livestock farming and the implications of TB testing across the region and will endeavour to book tests at your convenience.

**Vicky will be available from 8.30-1.30 Monday to Friday on 01664 567481 or by email [tb@rutlandvets.co.uk](mailto:tb@rutlandvets.co.uk)**

To save your time on the phone during the working day and to help us book tests at your convenience, once you receive your APHA TB test notification why not email us at the above address to book your test in early.

Please include your name and farm address, CPH number, contact telephone number plus the type of test (whole herd/post-movement etc), approximate number of animals and some proposed dates.

Vicky can then assess the diary and get back to you. For more urgent TB queries that need to be dealt with that day please continue to phone in on 01664 567481.



# INTRODUCING OUR FARM OFFICE TEAM



## Kirstie Griffiths – Farm Animal Manager

Kirstie has worked at the practice since 2004, starting as a registered veterinary nurse and then as the practice grew Kirstie became more and more involved in the large animal side. As the Farm Animal Manager, her main responsibilities include organising the farm diary, booking in TB, drug and account queries and most importantly organising Mike's life!! In her spare time she loves walking her dogs and exploring new places, preferably as far away from any phones as possible!



## Robyn Oram – Vet Tech

Robyn joined the practice in October 2015, initially on reception, she soon started showing an interest in the large animal side of the business and moved to the farm department in February 2016. After 12 months in the office Robyn again showed an interest for things happening outside the four walls of the office and has now started doing Vet Tech work for the practice. Her main responsibilities include answering the phone, organising emergency visits, drug ordering and TB booking. As a veterinary technician she now offers blood testing and mobility & condition scoring. In her spare time, she enjoys riding her Welsh Section D pony and TRYING to train her naughty collie dog Ralph.



## Vicky Fowler – TB Coordinator

Vicky joined the practice in August 2017 starting off on reception. After showing a keen interest in large animal, she moved upstairs to the large animal team in February. She works 5 mornings a week as the TB co-ordinator. Her main responsibilities are organising TB visits, keeping APHA paperwork up to date and speaking with XLFarmcare. When Vicky's not at work she enjoys spending time with her toddler and two dogs.



## Carmel Rhodes - Farm Animal Receptionist

Carmel joined us in December 2016 as one of our part time Farm Animal receptionists. Her main responsibilities include answering the telephone, booking visits, invoicing drugs and the paperwork side of the practice. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and her very loyal collie dog Molly.



## Rowena Smith - Farm Animal Receptionist

Rowena has worked for the practice for 6 years, she is our senior small animal receptionist but also works a few hours a week in our LA animal office. Her main responsibilities are booking in fertility and flock health visits and stock control. In her spare time, she enjoys walking her dog Elsa and spending time with her family.



## Emily Dalby – Farm Animal Receptionist

Emily started with us in January 2018 as farm animal receptionist. Her main responsibilities include, answering the phone, taking and placing drug orders, sending off lab samples and keeping the shelves stocked up. In her spare time she enjoys keeping her car looking smart and loud, she owns a Clio sport, walking her dog Colin and talking to her Parrot Ted.

# VPS PRODUCTS SPRING HOUSING DEALS 2018

Anti-Parasitic	Details/Uses	Withdrawal (Guide Only)	Dose	Pack Sizes	Price Excl. Vat
<b>Enovex</b> <small>Pour-On for Cattle</small>	Ivermectin pour on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle.	Cattle Meat 28 days Milk >60 days	1ml/10kg	2.5Litre	<b>£26</b>
<b>Closamectin</b> <small>Pour-On</small>	Ivermectin + Closantel pour-on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Cattle Meat 28 days Milk Do not use (>150 days)	1ml/10kg pour on	2.5Litre 4Litre 5Litre	<b>£217</b> <b>£315</b> <b>£390</b>
<b>Dectomax Pour-On for cattle</b>	Doramectin pour on for control of roundworms, mange mites and lice in cattle for up to 5 weeks.	Cattle Meat 35 days Milk do not use	1ml/10kg pour on	1Litre 2.5Litre 5Litre	<b>£85</b> <b>£130</b> <b>£210</b>
<b>Dectomax Injection for cattle and sheep</b>	Doramectin injection for control of roundworms, mange mites and lice, in cattle and sheep.	Cattle meat 70 days Sheep meat 70 days	1ml/50kg cattle, 1ml/33kg sheep	50ml 250ml 500ml	<b>£22</b> <b>£102</b> <b>£179</b>
<b>Noromectin</b> <small>0.08% w/v Drench Oral Solution</small>	Ivermectin (clear) drench for control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep.	Sheep Meat 14 days	2.5ml per 10kg	1Litre 2.5Litre 5Litre	<b>£13</b> <b>£25</b> <b>£42</b>
<b>LEVAFAS DIAMOND</b>	Levamisole & Oxyclozanide drench for control of roundworms and adult liver fluke in sheep & cattle.	Cattle Meat 5 days Sheep Meat 5 days	3ml/10kg	2.5Litre 4Litre	<b>£52</b> <b>£70</b>
<b>LEVACIDE LOW-VOLUME 7.5% ORAL SOLUTION CATTLE AND SHEEP WORM DRENCH</b>	Levamisole (yellow) drench for control of adult and developing roundworms in cattle and sheep.	Cattle Meat 14 days Sheep Meat 21 days	1ml/10kg drench	1Litre 2.5Litre	<b>£22</b> <b>£41</b>
<b>LEVACIDE INJECTION</b>	Levamisole injection for control of adult and developing roundworms in cattle and sheep.	Cattle Meat 28 days Sheep Meat 15 days	1ml/10kg s/c	500ml	<b>£11</b>
<b>Parafend 2.265%</b>	Oxfendazole (white) drench for control of roundworms and tapeworms in sheep. Treats nematodirus battus.	Sheep Meat 10days	1ml/5kg orally	1Litre 2.5Litre 5Litre 10Litre	<b>£17</b> <b>£26</b> <b>£40</b> <b>£69</b>
<b>Solantel</b> <small>Oral Suspension for Sheep</small>	Closantel drench for control of late immature and adult liver fluke and Haemonchus ("barber's pole" worm) in sheep (Flukiver alternative).	Sheep Meat 42 days	1ml/5kg	1Litre 2.5Litre 5Litre	<b>£32</b> <b>£60</b> <b>£91</b>
<b>Spotinor</b>	Deltamethrin spot on for prevention of flies in cattle and treatment of established blowfly strike and ticks in sheep.	Cattle Meat 17 days Sheep 35 days	Cattle 10ml Ewes 5ml	500ml 1Litre 2.5Litre	<b>£45</b> <b>£67</b> <b>£155</b>



# Farm Veterinary Solutions

A member of



**Farm**

## Spring 2018 Newsletter

Farm Veterinary Solutions  
1-3 Kings Road, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE13 1QF

Tel: 01664 567481

Email: [info@farmvetsolutions.com](mailto:info@farmvetsolutions.com)

Web: [www.farmvetsolutions.com](http://www.farmvetsolutions.com)

**Emergency Contact 01664 567481**

Kindly designed and printed by  **Norbrook**