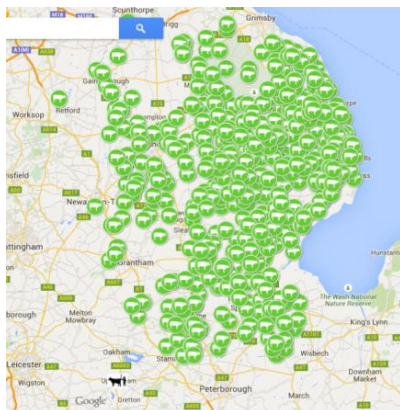




Summer Newsletter 2015

There are lots of changes to mention in this newsletter! We have had two new sites open in the last fortnight and there are 7 new members of staff who have already started, or are due to start soon.

Mike explains the reasoning for all this: “When the TB work was put to tender I resolved not to have to make any staff redundant in the event that we were unsuccessful with our bid, as TB work is about 10% of the farm side of the business. As a contingency, last autumn, I bought a small practice in Oakham, formerly known as Best Friends, and set about upgrading and moving the Vets4Less clinic we had at H & C Pearce in Market Harborough, to the Langton Farm Shop. Similarly in Melton, we have moved Farm Vet Solutions and Vets4Less Practice on Kings Road Industrial Estate to where Gambles Trailers used to be just off Norman Way. This site has been rebranded Kings Veterinary Centre.



New farms in Lincs we need to test!!

“What then transpired is that, not only did we win the TB bid to test our own clients’ farms, but two local practices decided not to do their own testing. So all the TB work from Oakham Vet Hospital and Swanspool Vets was transferred to us. In addition to this, all the vet practices in Lincolnshire decided *en masse* not to TB test their own clients either ...so now we do all of their 420 farms!

“ I always knew the helicopter would come in handy! So we have expanded unintentionally this summer, and this has kept us all rather busy this spring!

“With all the new sites and staff we have also recruited Kath Chivers as a practice manager for the business. Kath will oversee all the numerous regulations, payroll, health and safety matters, and assist with practice development.

“To help with the increase in farm work we have taken on experienced farm vet, Max Hardy, who is returning home from Devon where he set up and ran the Mole Valley Veterinary Services.” (There is more from Max later in the newsletter.)

“On the TB side, to help with our workload in Lincolnshire we have employed Alvaro’s university mate Lucas. Lucas will live in Lincoln and work from Spilsby and the Melton branch. An additional TB administrator has also been employed. Kirsty Black has been doing an admirable job, and Megan will help her with all extra paperwork and coping with the change. “



Left to Right: Kath, Emma and Peta at our Oakham branch

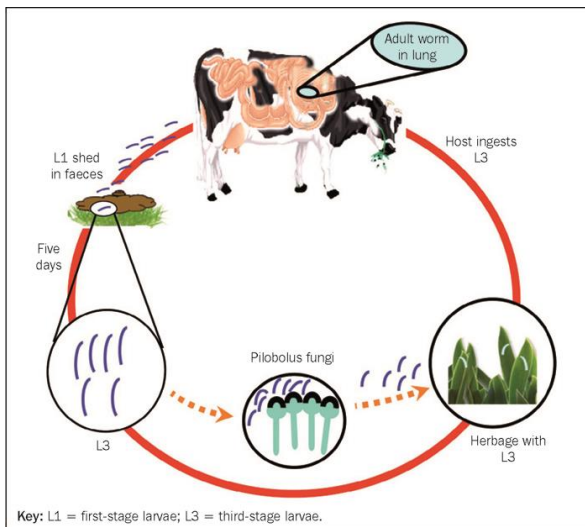
TB

Unfortunately we have had a serious new TB outbreak on a closed herd near Melton Mowbray. This cannot be attributed to anything other than wildlife transmission. Animal Health will designate it a hotspot and work with the local community dealing with all that this entails.

As a practice we are also assisting in the Badger Vaccination Scheme in North Leicestershire. The evidence is that this might help with the prevention of badger to badger spread. They have NOT had any evidence that it unsettles the sets and causes perturbation. The farmers in the locality are joint funding the scheme. We think it might help a little, but it is not going to be overly significant.

With the reduced fee as a result of the TB tender and the increased number of TB tests that we are doing, this is a plea on our behalf to be as organised and efficient as possible. Please present cattle already penned up, procure good handling facilities and assist us with adequate staff. We will do our best to arrive on time but if the previous test has been problematic and overrun, it has a knock-on effect on everyone else that day. So your patience and understanding is also much appreciated if we are unavoidably delayed.

LUNGWORM-We have seen our first case already this year - on a naïve dairy herd!



Lungworm (*Dictyocaulus viviparus*) is the parasite which causes parasitic bronchitis in cattle, also known as 'husk'. The disease is characterised by coughing and breathing problems and typically, although not exclusively, affects first season grazing animals on permanent or semi-permanent pastures between the months of July and September.

The disease is most prevalent in high rainfall, mild climate conditions, but is very unpredictable and cases of disease have been reported as early as May and as late as December.

What happens following infection with Lungworm?

Penetration phase: Days 1-7

During this phase, the larvae are making their way to the lungs and lung damage has not yet happened.

Pre-patent phase: Days 8-25

This is when the larvae start damaging the lungs, causing wheezing and increased breathing rate. Some animals can have thousands of developing worms and may die from 15 days onwards.

Patent phase: Days 26-60

Parasitic bronchitis is characterised by hundreds or even thousands of adult worms in frothy white mucus in the airways. Parasitic pneumonia is characterised by dark red collapsed areas around infected bronchi caused by the aspiration of eggs and L1 larvae into the alveoli.



Post-patent phase: Days 61-90

In untreated cattle, this is normally the recovery phase after adult lungworms have been expelled. While clinical signs may be resolving, the airways remain inflamed and this may persist for several weeks or even months. Eventually the lungs may recover and coughing stops. However, in approximately a quarter of animals that may have been heavily infected, there is a re-occurrence of clinical signs which is often fatal. This is either caused by lung lesions which reduce gas exchange or by the increased risk of secondary bacterial or viral infections in imperfectly healed lungs.

Clinical signs and Effects

Clinical signs vary from mild to moderate to severe in both young and adult cattle; from coughing to death. In the milking herd, often the first thing to be noticed following infection is a reduction in the bulk milk tank, even before coughing animals have been noticed!



Most cattle will gradually recover but it is not uncommon for cattle to develop secondary infections due to the damaged lung tissue. The real crime of lungworm is that even where animals recover, there can be significant lung damage with ongoing impact on their productivity and profitability to add to the veterinary costs.

Treatment and control



Lungworm can be treated with anthelmintics; benzimidazoles, THPs (levamisole) and macrocyclic lactones (ivermectin, doramectin, moxidectin or eprinomectin-based products).

Benzimidazole and levamisole-based anthelmintics have no persistent activity and so only kill the worms present at the time of treatment. Cattle continuing to graze infected pastures are, therefore, at risk of becoming re-infected quite quickly.

The advantage of the macrocyclic lactones is that they provide persistent activity, so preventing re-infection for the period of persistency. For adult milking cows, a further benefit of the eprinomectin-based product is that it has a zero milk withhold, so can be used at all stages of pregnancy and lactation without the need to discard milk.

Control: Immunity

Animals may be vaccinated prior to turn out to provide immunity. Two doses of live vaccine need to be given to calves at an interval of four weeks: in order to allow a high level of immunity to develop vaccinated calves should be protected from challenge until two weeks after their second dose. Immunity to lungworm is gained when either vaccination or natural infection is boosted by natural infection each year.

RUTLAND VETERINARY CENTRE: MARKET HARBOROUGH BRANCH

The Vets4Less clinic at H & C Pearce has been rebranded Rutland Veterinary Centre and has been moved to The Langton Farm Shop site near the Jet Garage/McDonald's roundabout on the A6. It is a fully



functional vet practice now with farm medicines, a receptionist, Sarah and vet nurse, Lyndsay. You will find it an ideal location, with plenty of parking, where you can easily pick up orders and drop off samples, along with bringing in sheep for procedures and all small animal requirements. We look forward to welcoming you over the coming weeks and months, and will be having an open evening along with a post-harvest BBQ this September – further details to follow.



Contact details are as follows:

[\(01858\) 545821](tel:01858545821) - direct line to Market Harborough Branch
Rutland Veterinary Centre (Market Harborough Branch)
The Langton Garden Centre
Market Harborough, LE16 7FD

FARM VETERINARY AVIATION



If you thought you had not seen or heard much of Mike in his helicopter recently, you were right! It has had a couple of mishaps requiring some extensive maintenance. The most significant of these was not even Mike's fault (perhaps surprisingly if you have witnessed his driving): another helicopter hovered too close and forced G-VETT's rotor blades into the tail causing the hole shown by the yellow arrow.

The good news is the repairs are now completed and we are just awaiting final paperwork completion. If you thought there was lots of paperwork involved with farming you might be amazed how much there is with private aviation, and how incredibly slow every step is.

Mossy has also passed his helicopter test so now there are two pilots in the practice – it's a fight for the keys now!



Hopefully Mike or Mossy will see you on your farm soon providing quick veterinary cover no matter where you are in the area – if you are brave enough, feel free to ask for a quick flight!

SHEEP LAMENESS CAMPAIGN

XLVets has launched its sheep lameness campaign which aims to help reduce the national incidence of lameness in flocks. Rutland Vets will have an active role in the campaign encouraging farmers to target preventative management. We understand the need to identify, control and modify treatment to individual farms. The progress of selected farms will be monitored throughout the year. If you are interested in taking part please contact Rachel at the practice.

BLASTON SHOW

The 58th Annual Blaston Show in the rolling hills of the Welland Valley began in slightly damp fashion with a serious rain shower early on, but the day and spirits soon brightened up! Rutland Vets were in attendance with both a small animal stand and full sponsorship of the livestock marquee. The day was very well attended by our farmers in both the cattle and sheep showing lines, with good entries for all classes.

The small animal stand again was busy throughout the day with the competition to win a Kindle proving very popular, although not quite as popular as the free beer tokens that were handed out throughout the day to farmers by Henry, Mike, Mossy, Emma, Rachel and Harriet!!

NEW VET: MAX HARDY

Max Hardy is the newest member of our team and a full-time farm vet. Hi, Max, firstly tell us a little bit about yourself...

I graduated from Liverpool Vet School in 2006 and since then have been working as a large animal vet. For the first six years following graduation I worked in Southwell, Newark. Latterly that role included veterinary cover for Retford poultry focussing on game bird work. Since then I have worked in the West Country and helped to establish Mole Valley Farm vets, but the rain in Devon has driven me home!

Home? So are you local to the area?

The family farm is in Nottinghamshire, we have beef cattle.

Outside of work what do you like to do?

I like to shoot and help to manage the shoot on the family farm, I have working Labradors and terriers. I also enjoy rugby and cricket and the odd bit of horse racing.

Now to the important bit...tea or coffee?

Coffee, milk, no sugar thanks!

And lager or beer?

Whatever's going but the West Country influence has increased my cider consumption.

What are you looking forward to most about joining the team at Rutland Veterinary Centre?

Getting to meet lots of new farmers, and getting stuck in to helping people improve herd health. (And just so you know if it is Max arriving, he drives a Black Kia Sportage!)

SAVE THE DATES!!

Wednesday 30th September 2015 – We will be holding a Bovine Respiratory Disease meeting to talk about treating and preventing such things. Venue to be confirmed, invites will be sent out closer to the date!

Saturday 26th September 2015 – For the first time we are going to be holding a 'Farmers Social Evening'. We would like to invite all our farm clients to an evening of drinks and a beef roast (as opposed to a hog roast! Mike wants to see if he can get a cow on a spit!) Venue to be confirmed, and invites to be sent closer to the date.

