



Changes to Red Tractor Audit Scheme

In feed antibiotic recording comes into effect as of October 2015 and needs to be discussed as part of your normal vet visits. The good news is that the NPA and Red Tractor have collaborated to produce a standard form on which feed compounders can report the usage to producers. This completed form will be sent directly to producers and needs to be placed in the farm manual. The first data should have already been delivered and will need to be discussed with your vet at your next visit. Going forward reports will be sent out twice per year. The data is confidential and at this stage is just being used as a discussion tool.

Rules regarding traceability of bought in stock and semen are also being focussed on. This information now needs reporting on every Red Tractor Quarterly Veterinary Report (the form you sign at every visit). As such please can you provide this to the practice as soon as possible. Also it is worth remembering that the annual derogation for non-assured stock and semen should be requested prior to stock being bought in.

As of 1st June 2016 anyone trying to buy professional rodenticide bait will need to present a certificate of competence. However Red Tractor members can use their scheme membership. This interim measure will last at least until December 2017.

Also Environment Agency rules state that mushroom compost must not be used for any purpose other than growing mushrooms. As such the Red Tractor scheme has removed all mention of this as an enrichment option. Continuing to use it could result in an EA fine.

Poultry

As of 14th September 2015 we are delighted to announce that Minster Poultry will have a vet present on site at Beeford and will be taking in birds for post mortem and samples. This will allow them to offer the local poultry clients a much more convenient service.

We know several of you have poultry as well as pigs and are currently using Minster for your poultry work. This will hopefully offer you a more accessible site without having to trek into the centre of York!

Dates for the Pig Clubs

Pig Club East

12th October 2015
16th November 2015
18th January 2016
15th February 2016
14th March 2016

Pig Club North

15th October 2015
11th November 2015
21st January 2016
18th February 2016
17th March 2016

Slap marker quality



In the pig industry EU law stipulates that every individual pig moved off the farm to slaughter must be identifiable and traceable via a specific herd number. Abattoir reports are coming back with a higher than normal number of illegible slap marks. Clear slap marking is essential to ensure that you are paid correctly for your own pigs!

Pigs should be slapped twice, once over each shoulder. It is vital to ensure that the needle density is correct and that the head is clean and sharp to leave a clear mark. Top up the ink pad with ink regularly.

Adjust hopper flow rates to reduce costly feed wastage and improve FCR. We generally recommend a 40-50% feed coverage at the hopper base.

Topical Talk – what we are seeing....**Mulberry Heart Disease**

We have been seeing an increase in MHD in recently weaned pigs which has been associated with sudden deaths, especially in good fast growing pigs. This has occasionally been associated with other respiratory diseases such as PRRS and Influenza.

MHD is related to Vitamin E/Selenium deficiency. This does not necessarily mean that there is a dietary lack of Vitamin E but rather an increased use or requirement for it, for example during a disease challenge. Vitamin E is essential for the optimum function of the nervous, muscular, circulatory and immune systems.

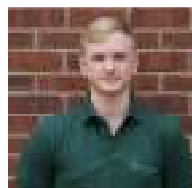


Post mortem findings are characteristic with fluid accumulation around the heart and lungs with haemorrhagic areas interspersed with paler areas on the heart muscle.

Occasionally there will also be gastric ulcers or hepato-splenic infarction (ruptured liver which bleeds into the abdomen). Histopathology of the heart can confirm any suspicions.

During clinical outbreaks in water Vitamin E supplementation is recommended at 2ml/pig on day 1 and 1ml/pig for 3 days thereafter. Any concurrent primary infection will also have to be treated as per veterinary advice.

It is recommended that Vitamin E levels in creepers are 200-250IU, Grower 150IU and Finisher rations 60+IU. Please consult your vet regarding these levels as they are a guide only and will very much depend on your unit health status, disease challenges at certain stages, fat content of the diets and breed of pigs you have on your unit.

Staff news**Jono Trowsdale**

New addition to the dispensary team

Jono started working with pigs when he was 16, as a weekend lad on an outdoor unit. He really enjoyed it and following his A-levels went into pig farming full time working mainly with dry sows, but did spend some time on the farrowings. He always preferred the service side!

After 2½ years he felt that he wanted a new challenge and accepted a job with Garth. You will be speaking to or seeing Jono on a regular basis and he is a welcome addition at Garth

Emma Pattison has joined us at Garth as a placement student. She is currently in her 3rd year at Harper Adams University studying Animal Science BSc (Hons). Emma's course covers a wide range of subjects such as Nutrition, Farm Animal Health and Welfare, Farm Animal Production Science and Animal Disease Science. Emma was raised on a Yorkshire dairy farm and has always had a passion for working with, and improving the quality of life of animals. She is a keen member of Great Smeaton Young Farmers and has held officer roles in the club. Emma attended a scholarship fair at Harper Adams and applied for the placement at Garth. After impressing us at interview she was offered the placement which were delighted she accepted. She will be visiting units with the vets enabling her to get a better understanding of the industry. Emma will be involved in different trials, including looking into the issue of anaemia in piglets. We welcome her to Garth and know you will too.

Congratulations to Louise on the birth of her daughter, Emma, on the 10th August 2015.

