



Welcome to the June edition, we hope you are all safe, well and managing to enjoy some sunshine.

In this edition we will start the first of a regular series on **Good Farm Practice**, with tips and advice to keep you informed.

Good Farm Practice

Many of you will have been aware of further activist videos which have been picked up by the press.

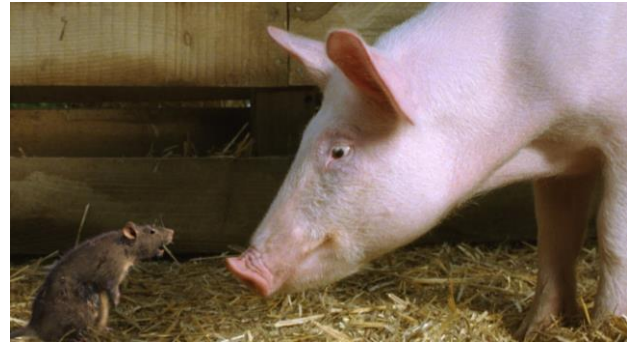
Increasingly the immediate response to these by the processors is to terminate contracts. This has massive financial impacts for the affected farms.

While we know the majority do these things right the majority of the time, 6 months of good practice can be eclipsed by a few minutes of poor decision making and compressed into a hard-hitting video.

1. We know that the instinct of stock people is to try and treat and save pigs. However, this is not always the best action for the pig. Always think BEFORE pigs move into a hospital pen whether these have a really good chance of survival or are better euthanased instead. Keep any pigs in hospital pens under constant review and have a system in place that documents this (discuss with your vet). Never ever delay euthanasia of a pig that is unlikely to recover – avoiding pig suffering is always priority .
2. Take care over handling pigs. Be extremely careful when handling pigs (and especially sick or injured)– be prepared with boards at hand, extra staff, take time, limit the distance moved, remove ill pigs from the main group and keep fresh cases separate from recovering pigs.
3. Always remove dead pigs promptly to dead boxes including weekends. LOCK dead boxes.

Consider colour marking carcasses in dead box so it is less easy to remove and stage photos.

Rodents out of Control? We'd like to hear from you!



You probably know about rats as carriers of leptospirosis, but did you know that they could also carry *Salmonella*, swine dysentery, Aujeszky's, *Pasteurella*, PCV2, Influenza?

Headed by the University of Greenwich, there is a new research project on the role of rodents in pig disease, and what might happen under new stricter controls of rodenticide use. They will look at how ecologically-based rodent control – pest management that uses knowledge of the rodent population to target controls most effectively – can work on farms to limit damage and disease spread by mice and rats.

They will trap rodents and screen them for a wide range of pig diseases and work with you to decide which diseases are most relevant to your farm, look for evidence that the same strains are infecting your pigs, then continue to trap and test rodents for around 18 months to understand seasonal population changes. This will help to design packages of control measures that can be best applied to different farm types, or disease problems.

How can you get involved?

The University of Greenwich are looking for a small number of farms to take part. You would

need to commit to working with them for the duration, allowing them on farm to trap in autumn and spring for two years, sharing some veterinary data and letting them collect faeces and saliva samples from pigs.

They are also interested in hearing from farms undergoing a big change that might impact the rodent population – perhaps a site closure or a decontamination. Lastly, you can also contribute by joining interviews or focus groups to give feedback on proposed control measures.

If you'd like to find out more, **contact Judy on J.M.Bettridge@greenwich.ac.uk or 01634 883021**

Looking for farmers to take part in a project to help inform future funding opportunities

ADAS are looking for pig farmers to take part in a Defra-funded research project to inform development of a future voluntary scheme to financially support farmers in delivering good animal welfare.

ADAS are looking for farmers that have welfare enhancements in place, are achieving good animal welfare and/or are part of a higher welfare or organic farm assurance scheme. In particular, they would like to speak to pig farmers who have:

- Free farrowing systems
- Temporary crate systems
- Pigs with intact tails
- Straw bedded systems

Project participants will need to fill out an online survey about their farming system and welfare enhancements. Once the survey is complete, a follow up call will be arranged with a researcher to discuss the costs and welfare benefits in more detail. Farmers will be paid £100 for taking part to compensate for their time. Farmers will need to provide welfare, performance and cost records and be willing to discuss their experience of implementing higher welfare enhancements.

If you or someone you know is achieving one or more of the above welfare enhancements, then please contact Hannah Baldwin.

Email: hannah.baldwin@adas.co.uk or call 07785 708545.

All data collected will remain strictly confidential and any farms that take part will not be identifiable in the results.

Meet the Team

This edition we would like you to meet **Marian Elworthy** who works at our busy **Integra Veterinary Services**.



I joined Integra Veterinary Services four years ago as an Admin Assistant and have enjoyed being part of a team at this busy practice. I'm a Mum and Grandmother to three grandchildren and when I am not working I like nothing more than to spend time with them all or catch up with friends. My hobbies include spending time gardening and reading or listening to audio books and baking. I also love to go to live music events and enjoy the theatre and cinema when I can and hope to resume travelling in the not-too-distant future.

Medicine Record Retention

A few of our clients have had inspections from APHA Vets. One topic which has arisen is a reminder to keep medicine records for a minimum of 3 years—they have asked for sight of old medicines books as evidence for this: ensure you can find these!