



HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all and welcome to our first newsletter of the 2024.

A New Member of the Team

We are delighted to introduce you to a new member of the Garth, Integra and Oakwood pig team. **Brian Foster** has taken up the role of Technical Support Manager.



Brian has worked in the pig industry most of his working life and has amassed a wealth of knowledge and hands-on, practical farming experience, covering all aspects of the different production systems. He has an impressive CV and amongst his many qualifications is a City and Guilds assessor and trainer.

Brian understands better than anyone, the day-to-day challenges of life on a unit, he has rolled up his sleeves and done this work and is looking forward to supporting you in any way he can. He can support with training, coaching, scanning, other technical tasks, all aspects of practical husbandry, give advice on building and equipment set ups, prepare for audits, problem solving – and much, much more.

We are excited to have Brian on board and we are sure that his services will be of value to you all.

Impact of Zinc withdrawal from weaner diets – a survey

Impacted by the forthcoming withdrawal of Zinc Oxide (ZnO) from weaner diet? To help producers and the wider pig sector understand the effects of the withdrawal of ZnO from weaner diets on the incidence of post-weaning diarrhoea, a consortium of researchers is calling on all producers involved with weaning and the rearing of weaned piglets to participate in an online survey.

Leading this survey component of the wider project, Dr Abel Ekiri said, “Collecting data about the impact of ZnO removal from feed on weaner health and welfare, as the industry is adjusting to this change will allow us to explore its implications in real-time, and to collect feedback direct from producers.” Dr Ekiri added “In testing, the survey took about 30 minutes to complete, but it is only through collecting this level of detail that we can understand ways to mitigate the effects of the withdrawal of ZnO in the UK pig sector.” The findings will be shared with producers and the wider stakeholder community, for example via future newsletters.

This research is organised by a consortium of research partners based

at the University of Edinburgh, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Surrey, Napier University, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and an industrial partner, the feed company AB Agri Ltd. The research is funded by a grant received from the BBSRC/AHDB Endemic Livestock Diseases Priming Partnership Initiative grant funding call.

Participation in this survey is entirely optional and all responses will be gathered anonymously via a secure online survey platform, overseen by the University of Surrey. For further details about the study and to have your say, please follow this [link](https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/survey/pig-study-survey): <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/survey/pig-study-survey>

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Clients in the News

Massive congratulations to **Yorkwold Pig Producers** who celebrated selling their **2 millionth bacon pig** on 11th January!

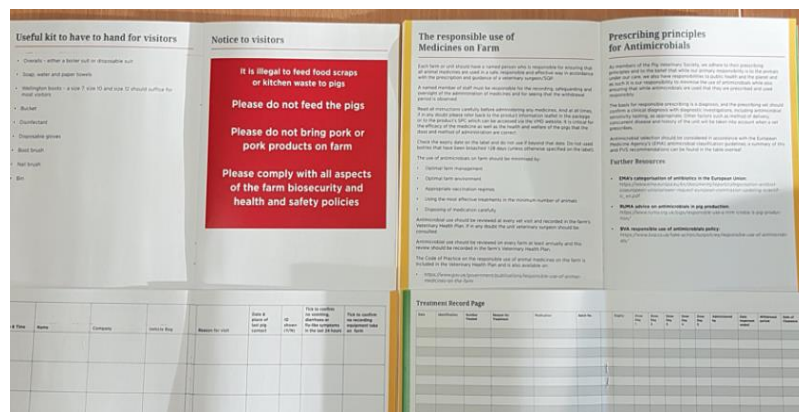
An amazing achievement by the whole team and a great contribution to the British Pig Industry.

Garth Medicine & Visitor Books



We have developed new medicine and visitor record books, and they are now available for sale.

Each book complies with legal record keeping requirements and has clear, landscape A4 tables, along with useful information and advice pages. The books are finished in a wipe-clean cover to stand the rigours of the farm office.



Medicine Book: £12
Visitor Book: £6.50
Both together: £16.50.

To place an order, or for further information please contact our teams below:

Garth Dispensary on 01262 488724

Integra/Oakwood on 01842 879379