



## PHW Pathway Opens Up – it takes less than 2 minutes!

The Pig Health & Welfare Vet Review Visit has now opened up to producers that do not claim the Basic Payment Scheme as well as the ones that do.

The need to be approved has now also been removed so the process is now very simple.

As long as you own the pigs on your unit you can claim for £684 which is paid direct to producers. A vet review is required as is PRRS testing. Be sure to talk to your vet or contact the practice to make sure that you can claim and be part of the pathway.

<https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/guidance-for-farmers>

**The average amount of time that it takes to apply is just 1 minute and 45 seconds** so if you are eligible, we would urge you to apply. Payment is also very quick after the review visit has taken place.

Please discuss with your vet if you have any further queries

As part of this further grants from The Farming Equipment & Technology Fund are due to open up again shortly. These are for a list of items and grants are between £1,000 and £25,000.

These are split into 2 themes

- Productivity and Slurry Grant
- Animal Health and Welfare Grant

Further details can be found on government website ([gov.uk](http://gov.uk)) and by signing up to the farming blog [farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](http://farming.blog.gov.uk)

## Green Stuff

Pig medicine lectures at vet college though few in number, were large in scale. The most memorable being titled “pig medicine, the first 250,000 miles”. It was an accumulation of the wisdom gathered by a pig vet in their first ten years in practice and included such gems as “always park facing for home in case you need to make a quick exit” and “if you hear hooves, think horses, not zebras”. And while some of those gems stuck with me, it was the idea that I’d be travelling 250,000 miles in my first ten years as a vet that really resonated. Even way back then that felt like a lot of miles, and a lot of fuel, and a not insignificant footprint.

After the summer we’ve had (or not had), that footprint feels a lot more pressing. And as a profession, vets have moved forward – practices and individuals are making positive changes towards sustainability in their in-house operations (see the BVA’s #GreenTeamVet). However, while changes made at practice and at individual level are worthwhile and rewarding, the carbon footprint of the animals under our care cannot be underestimated. And the ability of vets to mitigate these environmental impacts can also not be underestimated. The average total carbon footprint of animals under care of each pig vet is estimated at 27,000 tonnes per year (for context, the average UK citizen is responsible for about 15 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year).

27,000 tonnes per year. It’s a big number. But it doesn’t have to be that high – with every improvement in health made on a unit, the efficiency of the pigs improves, their need for resource decreases. It’s well established that eradicating disease, implementing vaccination programmes, reinforcing biosecurity have a positive impact on pig health and welfare, and farm productivity, but the environmental impact of these measures should also be considered – improvements in health lead to improvements in feed efficiency, decreased resource

use, decreased human health expenditure due to zoonoses and decreased use of antibiotics. Studies in cattle in the UK have shown that a BVD control strategy (incorporating biosecurity, disease investigation and vaccination) would take ~200ktCO<sub>2</sub>e off their tonnage. We don't have the numbers for PRRSv, EP and flu but their impact on the footprint of pig production will not be insignificant. For a variety of reasons, now is the time to tighten up on biosecurity on your farm – keeping disease out is always cost-, and carbon, effective. It's also a good time to start planning for next year – is there an opportunity to eradicate a costly disease from your unit? Coming towards the end of the year is always a good time to sit down with your vet and really review the endemic disease on your farm – the most visible diseases aren't always the ones that are necessarily costing you, your pigs and the planet the most.

*Written by Ciara O'Neill, Garth Pig Practice Ltd, for Pig World.*

<https://www.pig-world.co.uk/comment/the-ability-of-vets-to-mitigate-pigs-carbon-footprint-must-not-be-underestimated.html>.

## Clients in the News

Featuring Tom Warkup from CN Warkup & Sons, and his ingenious environmental enrichment “play-station” for pigs.



Being both innovative and resourceful, Tom could not quite find an enrichment system that suited his needs, so he decided to design his own solution, which has now been patented and developed with the assistance of A M Warkup Ltd under the name of “ROTA-PLAY”.



This neat piece of engineering is designed to fit within pen bars, allowing easy access for pigs between pens and allows the opportunity to interact.

Play materials include wood, plastic and mineral licks which rotate to add extra interest. Items are easily attached and replaced when worn.

Not one to stop and rest, Tom is now in the process of design further enrichment systems with other materials including ropes and also smaller versions for weaners.

If you are interested and would like any further information, please contact Rachel at Garth Pig Practice who is only too happy to get in touch with Tom on your behalf. Please also visit the links below for more details.



VID-20231030-WA0002.mp4



VID-20231030-WA0006.mp4



VID-20231030-WA0005.mp4

<https://www.amwarkup.co.uk/rota-play.html>

## ...And finally,

Congratulations to our teams at Garth, and Integra who have been busy fundraising again.

Our Integra site in East Anglia held a MacMillan Coffee morning with a raffle and raised £262, and our site at Beeford got busy baking and raised £95.50 in aid of “Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer”.

Two very worthy causes and Vet Partners will match 100% of all funds raised. Well done everyone!