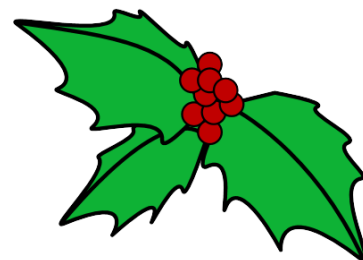


# Arrowfield Veterinary Practice

## December Newsletter 2015



On the whole it has been a similar autumn to last year being mild with the grass growing well. The winter is starting wet and the body condition of ewes in early lambing flocks will need to be monitored closely. These ewes can lose weight rapidly in the last 6-8 weeks of pregnancy causing twin lamb disease, colostrum quality issues and mineral problems.

### SUCKLER COW PROFITABILITY

**Are you experiencing an increasingly spread out calving pattern or more barren cows than expected (target 5% or less)? Are you getting more calving problems than normal or issues in neonatal calves? Are your losses more than you would like?**

There are several potential causes to the above issues, all of which impact on the profitability of your suckler herd. These causes can be nutritional, infectious or due to management issues.

Now is an ideal time to assess the performance of your suckler cows and identify areas for improvement. Below are some of the targets which are used to monitor suckler herd efficiency:

	<u>Target</u>
Calving's per cow & heifer put to bull - pregnancy rate	95%
Barren cows	5% or less
Cows calving in 1 <sup>st</sup> 3 weeks	65%
Calf mortality birth-weaning	<3%
Calves weaned / 100 cows & heifers put to bull	94%
Replacement Rate	<15%

85-90% calves weaned is normal for beef herds.

***An efficient and profitable beef suckler herd should aim to have a compact calving period (calving in 9-12 weeks) and wean 1 calf/cow or heifer put to the bull.***

Infectious diseases such as BVD and Johnes and trace element problems can be investigated by simple blood tests. We can scan your cows to check they are in calf and identify the barrens. If there are more than expected, we can discuss potential causes at the time and take tests to try and identify the problem. Contact the surgery to discuss any concerns you may have with one of the vets

### **FLOCK/HERD HEALTH PLANNING AND FABBL/FAWL & PRESCRIBING**

Those of you who are FABBL or FAWL farm assured are required to have a flock and herd health plan. This year you are required to evaluate your health plan to see if the management procedures put in place for each disease condition are working. We can help you to put a herd and flock health in place not only to be compliant for FABBL/FAWL but to improve the health and productivity of your businesses.

To sell prescription medicines e.g. antibiotics and be compliant with the Royal College we are required that ***animals are under our care***. These animals must be seen on farm at least every 12 months. We will be contacting those of you, especially with sheep only, whose farms and flocks we have not visited and seen in the last 2 years.

These visits will ensure that we all stay compliant.

### **NEW RECRUITS**

Many of you have already met Amy Peel and Lucy Corlett who joined us at the start of October. They (and their dogs) have settled in very well and are now an established part of the Veterinary team and hugely valued.

We also welcome Chloe Graham who joined us a few weeks ago. Chloe graduated from The Royal Veterinary College in London and is interested in all aspects of mixed veterinary practice.

We will soon be welcoming Emily Davies who lives with her husband and children in Shobdon. Emily has been qualified for 14 years and will mainly be concentrating her time in the surgery.

### ***SURGERY OPENING TIMES CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR***

Christmas Eve (Thur)	Closing at 1.00pm
Christmas Day (Fri)	Closed
Boxing Day (Sat)	Closed
Sunday 27th	Closed
Monday 28th (Bank Holiday)	Closed
Tuesday 29th	Open as usual
Wednesday 30th	Open as usual
New Years Eve (Thurs)	Open as usual
New Years Day (Fri)	Closed
Saturday 2nd Jan	Normal Sat Opening

*24 Hour cover available as usual*

**We wish all our clients a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2016.**

The Arrowfield Team

