

NEWSLETTER

The latest from the South Moor Farm team

HAVE YOU MADE THE MOST OF THE AHWP FUNDING?

As many of you know, since 2023 Defra have been ploughing funding into the AHWP scheme, to try to support UK farms and their livestock. AHWP stands for Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (not the Asian Heritage Working Party, which is what I found when I first googled it!), and it provides funding to farmers for veterinary visits, disease testing and advice aimed at improving animal health, welfare, productivity and biosecurity.

It's actually pretty no-strings-attached help, and is not part of an audit or assurance scheme –it can be used with your vet to focus on a wide range of health and welfare issues. Lots of our clients have made good use of it, but we're conscious that some haven't and we want everyone to get their share. Especially because the **funding is due to stop in June 2027**. And there is talk of the scheme becoming compulsory after that but without funding, so now's the time to act.



A few details:

- The scheme is open to all farmers in England who have an SBI and a CRN, and who meet minimum livestock numbers: 11 beef cattle, 11 dairy cattle, 21 sheep or 51 pigs.

- The first step is to do an AHWP Review with your vet, where the scheme will pay for 2 hours of vet time and some disease testing. The testing requirements vary by species –BVD testing in cattle, wormer-treatment checks in sheep and PRRS testing in pigs.
- Once you've completed an animal health and welfare review, you can then go on to access endemic disease follow-up funding.
- The Follow-Up targets diseases such as BVD in cattle and PRRS in pigs, while sheep farmers can select health packages covering areas such as ewe condition, reproduction, lamb survival, parasites and lameness.
- Farmers can now receive funding for multiple eligible species (beef and dairy cattle, sheep and pigs) at the same time
- The review can be repeated annually (actually every 10 months), and up to three reviews and three follow-ups can be funded during the agreement period.

Chat to us when we're out or give us a call to find out more.

DARTMOOR FARMERS-RAM DAY

We have a Dartmoor Farmers Ram fertility day coming up. We will be there alongside other local vets to do a mass fertility test of about 150-200 rams. If you are up on the moor and would like to attend, pop by.

Bounce back from Bluetongue

**Monday
5th October
10am - 2pm**
Tavistock Livestock Market, PL19 9BB.

Industry event

- Hear from industry experts on the aftermath of Bluetongue outbreak.
- Livestock fertility advice.
- Free Ram Fertility testing booking for Dartmoor Farmers. Enquire on the day.
- Exhibitors and stalls.
- Free breakfast and lunch provided.

All welcome,
free to attend.



Dartmoor Hill Farm Project

TRACE ELEMENT TESTING



It's been lovely to see the pasture recovering and the Devon desert going green again. But the drought will continue to have knock-on effects. A lot of people have already eaten into their winter feed. Stock may have lost body condition through the summer and there will be plenty of ewes which haven't had the same flushing pasture they're used to prior to tupping, so that may put a dent in lambing percentages.

Another issue is trace elements -those micro-nutrients like **copper, selenium, cobalt and iodine** which play such an important role in fertility, growth and health. New grass takes a few weeks to recover its normal content of trace elements, and it may well be that grazing stock have been deficient this year.

On the plus side, the end of the grazing season is a great time to take some samples and test trace element levels. If we find your stock are low, there are various boluses, drenches and licks we can talk about to correct levels and improve health and productivity.

FARM SMALL HOLDER CLUB



FARM SMALL HOLDER MEETING

- This is an open invitation to our meeting about our Farm Small Holder Services
- You are welcome to join us to discuss your needs and review the services we can provide to help you be the perfect Small Holder!
- An overview of the services we provide that you may not know about and could find useful

WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER | California Inn, Iybridge PL21 0SG
7pm

Let us know if you'd like to come - open to any small holders or people interested in what it's all about

01803 900181

farmesouthmoorvets.co.uk

We have our first Farm Small Holders meeting coming up! This is an open evening for us to find out how we can best help our small holders and the kind of services / support you'd like from us. We already hold these meetings for our Dairy, Beef and Flock health clubs and get a really good turnout so are happy to be able to offer this to our small holders too.

BLUETONGUE AND ITS LINKS TO INFERTILITY

Bluetongue or BTV-3 has dominated the farming landscape since the end of July when our area experienced the first cases of this horrible disease. While the worst of the clinical outbreaks seem to have largely passed, we are now in the process of uncovering the longer lasting and still potentially devastating effects of BTV-3 on fertility.

The consequences of BTV-3 infection on both male and female fertility are well documented thanks to our colleagues in Europe. Breeding males can suffer 12 weeks or more of near total infertility (lack of viable sperm production) following an infection. Breeding females who contracted the disease early in pregnancy may have suffered early embryonic death (due to fever and/or viraemia) meaning above average empty rates. Possibly more distressingly is where the fetus may have been infected by BTV-3, resulting in a full term pregnancy but with a non viable newborn, usually due to hydrocephalus (water on the brain).

These effects on both males and females point towards the high likelihood of lower pregnancy rates, scanning percentages and non viable newborn calves and lambs in herds and flocks hit by BTV-3.



Knowledge is power in this situation and we would encourage Spring calving herds / early lambing flocks to pregnancy scan their cows / ewes, and for Autumn block calving herds to fertility test any bulls you intend to use, and of course fertility test rams prior to tupping if you haven't already. If you don't usually scan your cattle or sheep we would urge you to consider doing it this season. Please contact us at the practice if you wish to discuss this further.

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**South Moor
Farm Vets**

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