



# WINTER NEWSLETTER

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## Practice News:

- Rosey has passed her approved TB Tester Assessment. Well done Rosey!
- Mimi is soon starting her Veterinary Technician course—but don't worry, 80% is practical training so she'll still be out on farm.
- Medicines training course dates;
  - Sheep = 8th February
  - Beef = 8th March

## Ewe Pregnancy Scanning



Knowing what you are expecting prevents over-supplementing barren ewes, saves feed costs and helps spot fertility problems early.

We can scan small flocks, keeping handling as stress free as possible on your ewes or nanny goats.

As you can see here, one of Mimi's Zwartbles Christine was quite happy to stay lying down!



## Can the TB Advisory Service Help You?

'TBAS' provides farmers with free tailored advice and guidance on how they can stamp TB out of the herd and keep it out as well as preventing initial entry of the disease. Funding can provide vet visits, telephone advice and even Badger Sett Surveys to produce specific recommendations.

This resource is available to all livestock sectors not just cattle, so follow the link to find out more; [TB Advisory Service \(tbas.org.uk\)](http://tbas.org.uk)

Even better, you can have your regular vet who has some knowledge of your farm and therefore the measures that will work best.

Jon is already a qualified advisor, but this month Sarah will have completed her training too.



## Red Tractor Standards

For accredited farms, the standards changed in November 2021. If you're still trying to get your head around what this means for you see below for the key changes;

1. Annual vet visit (quarterly for pig units).
2. Health plan must record on farm welfare issues and their management and this must be reviewed by a vet each year.
3. Tethered housing banned for Dairy, Beef and Sheep.
4. Pain relief should be considered for any routine procedures that cannot be prevented.
5. Pigs: Stockman training in euthanasia and assessed biannually, with a contingency plan agreed. Must evidence reason for tail docking if applicable.
6. Poultry: Macrolide and Fluoroquinolone antibiotics only used under veterinary direction on all units.



### Pneumonia

Our prevailing wind direction is from the South West, so calves housed up-wind of adults will be up to 4 times less exposed to diseases.

## Reactors without lesions don't actually have TB.. Or do they?

The skin test for TB only generates a positive result when a cow has antibodies against the disease—cows that are infected. This means it can detect cows in the early stages.

This is why it's rare that lesions are found at the abattoir in Reactors, but it means infected cows can be removed from the herd early, when they represent a much smaller risk of spreading the disease.

TB is always a progressive disease, so in all infected animals it will eventually result in visible signs of disease and reduced production.

Catch up on the latest ABP Podcasts on Sustainable Farming:

<https://abpsustainabilitystory.com/podcasts/>