



## September 2018 Newsletter

# Tibbs and Simmons

Farm Animal Veterinary Surgeons

The BVD Stamp It Out Initiative mentioned in last month's Newsletter will get under way this month. As we said there is some government money available through the RDPE, to allow us to help you determine if you have a BVD issue on farm, and if so to start doing something about it. We will start with an initial meeting to learn more about the scheme and about BVD; the disease, diagnostics and biosecurity to avoid it entering your farm etc. followed by two one-to-one meetings on farm. There is then a round up meeting to discuss. Please call the surgery to book for the first meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm, we will then send you out an enrolment form, as you need to be registered before we can start. (Some of you will have already received your forms; please get them back to us asap, so that we can get going.)

Safeguarding residue-free milk is not rocket science. Despite most dairy farmers being well aware of what is required in regarding withdrawal periods etc. there are still 3 bulk tank residue failures a day across the country. As testing technologies become cheaper and improve, this number is likely to increase. Currently failures occur when inhibitory substances are detected in the milk (i.e. substances that stop organisms growing e.g. antibiotics or disinfectants), however this does not include all veterinary medicines. Experience would suggest that many farmers are prepared to take risks when using veterinary medicines and when applying withdrawal periods. To help the future security of the dairy industry, it is this behaviour that needs to change. We also need to be aware that at the 'payment test' a different type of test is utilised by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, and this will certainly detect all antibiotics and other residues, therefore no medicine is undetectable. This includes all wormer/fluke treatment not intended for use in animals producing milk for human consumption, all classes of antibiotics, including Tylan, and any anti-inflammatories e.g. Metacam. We are running a 'Milksure' Course next month on behalf of Arla, although all are welcome. This will run through Bulk Tank Milk failures and how we go about using antibiotics and testing to avoid such failures. Please call the surgery if you would like more details.

As we go around farms our eyes are often drawn to stray bottles of antibiotics, tubes of eye cream lying around and cans of Engemycin spray in the dash of the Landrover! Please remember that these are prescription medicines and as such should be stored in your lockable medicine store. We are responsible for prescribing these antibiotics and our responsibility doesn't stop there; we need to be happy that the prescribed medicines will be stored and used correctly.

Tupping season is just about here for many of you. Please remember to give your Rams a thorough MOT before using them. We are happy to help with this including collecting a semen sample to test if they can produce effectively. It is amazing just how many Rams are infertile and subfertile causing protracted lambing periods and poor scan rates. Please call the surgery to book your lads in! We also need to be vasectomising rams now to use as teasers as they need at least a month after the snip before using them.