



THE
WOOD
VETERINARY
GROUP

FARM NEWSLETTER JUNE 2024

Funding Schemes for Farm Improvement

TB Advisory Service

As part of the ongoing battle against TB in the area, we are greatly encouraged that the funding for TBAS visits has been extended.

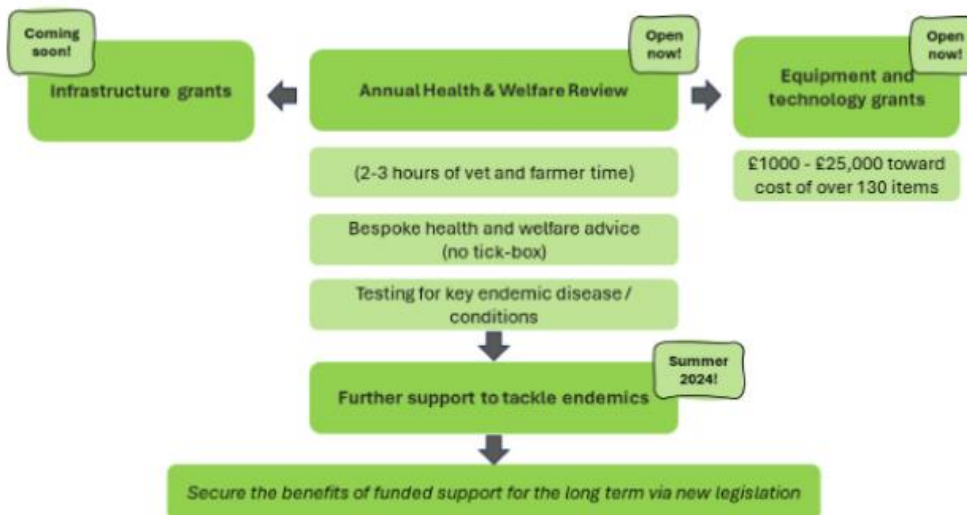
The TBAS scheme provides eligible farmers in England with cattle, sheep, camelids, goats, pigs or deer the opportunity to have two completely free site visits



These visits will identify practical and effective areas to help reduce the risks associated with TB breakdowns. This service is available to farms that are both open and under restriction. The visit is completed by one of our vets assessing all aspects of the stock and farm environment with a comprehensive report including any TB strain information available. Then we revisit 3-6 months later to review any progress or challenges faced in adopting the changes. If you are interested in having a visit, please speak to the office or any of the team on farm to arrange a convenient time.

Animal Health and Pathway Visits

There is ongoing funding available for an Animal Health and Pathway visit to review species specific endemic diseases ([Animal Health and Welfare Pathway - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)) with testing and a health and welfare report. DEFRA has also now launched a series of bolt on funding once you have had your AHWP report to support further investigations and build on disease eradication actions advised previously.



We predict the instructions for the bolt on funding to be released soon but in the meantime now is the ideal time to book in for an Animal Health and Welfare visit if you haven't had one already. Apply for your funding in less than 3 minutes in the renewed process and then speak to the office about booking in this really rewarding opportunity.

Maximising Milk/Growth From Forage – Grazing herds and Silage

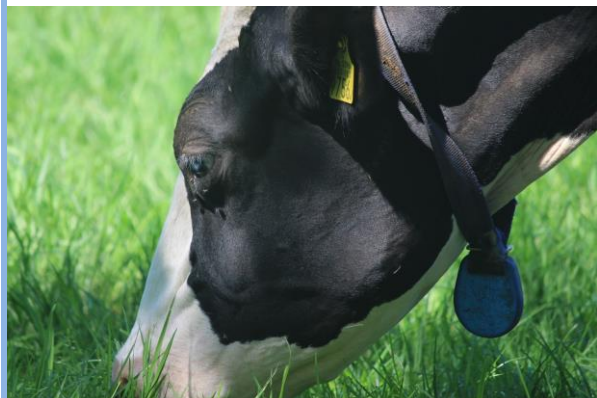
With more and more farms aiming for milk from forage be that in clamped silage or in pasture and several milk contracts engaging farms in more and more grazing, it is vital that we make the best decisions when it comes to grazing and forage management:

- **Check boundaries** to avoid unexpected breakouts and **empty all water troughs** to be cleaned out before refilling. Stagnant water or heavy algae cover can severely limit water and forage intake. It's also highly recommended for TBAS guidelines
- **Repair and maintain tracks** keep machinery off cow tracks and observe bottle necks or places where cows bunch to identify areas that need work. Brush off stones and identify tracks that need further reinvestment to



maintain access to pastures when grass dictates and not when conditions dictate.

- **Plan rotations** with a daily hectare target and get the whole team involved – a visual farm plan and grazing wedge are ideal ways to explain decisions and quickly see changes that need to be acted on
 - o Keeping heavy or clay pastures for dry weather and well-draining pastures for wet days will reduce pasture damage from poaching, reduce intervention needed and maximise regrowth
- **Measure grass level and growth** using a plate meter weekly – put all this information into your grazing rotation decisions. It allows you to forecast surges in growth and optimise cow nutrition
- Start grazing in the **middle of the forage block** i.e. 24-2600kgDM/hectare:



- o This spreads cows out with less competition avoiding excessive damage when ground is still soft and works especially well for spring calvers with the first section of the calving block
- o Easy to graze down hard to 1500kg and encourages maximum regrowth early in the season
- o Allows fresh calvers easier grazing access when they are building towards peak lactation
- o Saves the high end of the wedge for when the maximum number of cows are calved
- o Leaves the lower end of the wedge to grow on until

later in the spring and be supported if needs be with fertiliser where conditions allow

- **Graze down to 1500kgDM/hec** but also **observe sward length**. Graze at 8–10 cm leaving a residual of 4–5 cm – sugars are stored in this stubble and support the growth of the next leaf
- **Back fence** cows when paddock grazing – stop cows going back over grazed pasture to ensure 3 leaf grazing is maintained and quality is maximised. Also helps to reduce pasture damage from loafing
- Aim for **multiple gateways** – if you can have a set entry and exit this greatly reduces poaching
- **Sample quality** intermittently through the season to get an idea of quality

Cows don't lie and they will reflect the quality of their nutrition in both yield and body condition and for young stock in their growth rates. Where we closely control and mix rations for the housed part of the year, it is often left somewhat in the hands of the gods for the grazing block and with some simple changes we can also optimise herd production through the spring and summer grazing months. Controlling grazing will also mean we have far better control over silage management and yields across grazing areas.

Important TB Disinfection update – All cattle owners

The dilution rates for TB disinfectants have been updated. FAM 30 and other disinfectants were suspended earlier this year for TB disinfection. It has now been reinstated but at a higher dilution rate along with changes to other disinfectants with the same active ingredient.

This is especially important when cleansing and disinfecting sheds after isolating TB reactors and is what all our TB testers and vets use for disinfecting on and off farm. The details will also need to be updated on TB C+D paperwork after TB reactors have left farm. The most common two are listed below with updated dilution rates, and all available options can be found at

<http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/>



Disinfectant	Tuberculosis orders	General orders
FAM 30	1:14	1:49
Virophor 2.8%	1:14	1:50

There are a final few places available for next week on our **CowSignals®** training course. **11th June - 10am - 4pm with lunch provided**
Please ring 01452 543 999 to book your place

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