

***Klebsiella Pneumoniae* – Seasonal Alert**

Klebsiella species are bacteria that can be involved in chronic, long-term, respiratory disease, looseness or diarrhoea, and can also be involved in mastitis. In recent years, a species of bacteria called *Klebsiella pneumoniae* has caused outbreaks of sudden deaths in pre-weaned piglets.

Between 2011-2015 there were a total of 16 confirmed outbreaks on commercial farms in England. These have mostly been in East Anglia, with one outbreak in 2014 in Devon and one from 2015 in the Thirsk region. In 2016 there were 6 outbreaks, 3 of which were on farms that were previously affected and saw a recurrence of disease.

Outbreaks of the disease have predominantly affected outdoor herds. Although the incidence of this disease has been low so far, it is a disease to be aware of particularly over the next few months as the disease has mainly been seen during the summertime. The most consistent clinical sign is rapid death of pre-weaned pigs from around 10 days of age to weaning in multiple litters – often pigs are simply found dead. The bacterium is resistant to the antibiotic ampicillin, so assessment of responsiveness (or not) to treatment helps to determine if this is a likely cause of the clinical disease on farm. If suspected, post-mortems and samples will be taken in order to obtain a diagnosis.

Please speak to your vet about any questions you may have.

Nuffield Scholarship Applications

The Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust awards 20 individuals each year the opportunity to research topics of interest in either farming, food, horticulture or rural industries.

Chosen scholars are able to travel anywhere in the world, for a period of no less than 8 weeks, to further their knowledge and understanding of their chosen topic. The findings are then presented in a written report as well as conclusions and recommendations presented at the Annual Nuffield Farming Conference, along with elsewhere if possible.

Applicants must work within one of the above industries or be in a position to influence them. They need to be between 22 and 45 years old but not in full time education or already carrying out a research project.

Applications for this scholarship must be submitted by the 31st July – for further information regarding applications and about the scholarship please check out their website www.nuffieldscholar.org or [click here](#) to be taken directly to it.

Training Reminder – Use of Veterinary Medicines

As mentioned in our April newsletter, we will be running a Use of Veterinary Medicines Course on the **31st May** from **1-5pm** at the practice in Ripon. This course is aimed at staff who have recently started working in farming, up to those with a few years experience.

Places on this course are limited so please do register your attendance with Sylvia on 01765 602396 early. The course will be PIPR registered.

Avian Influenza Update

There remains an Avian Influenza protection zone in place within the targeted areas of Lancashire, Cumbria and Merseyside. A specific protection zone and surveillance zone control is in place around the Thornton, Wrye, Lancashire area following 2 recent outbreaks of the Avian Influenza H5N8 virus on the 4th and 6th May.

Outside of these areas, poultry keepers are no longer legally required to apply extra biosecurity protocols but best practice is still encouraged. Please [click here](#) for more information and also to check whether your premises are affected by a current protection zone.

Current Clinical Trends – What are we seeing out there?...

We have recently seen a small increase in tail biting in finishers. Tail biting is an immediate welfare problem and can be linked to many interacting and complicated factors that can be difficult to solve. Finding the cause of the problem as soon as possible is important.



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Factors that can be involved include feed & water issues, ventilation changes, stocking density issues and disease. Please check clean feed is flowing freely within the feed pipes to ensure there is no bridging of feed or blockages and that water can be accessed easily, dependent on pig size, and there are good water flow rates. We are still seeing significant temperature changes between days and also between day and night – please check there is no evidence of draughts as well as ensuring maximum stocking densities have not been exceeded.

AHDB Pork do analyse both potential risk factors and the effectiveness of methods used to resolve and prevent tail biting occurring. If you are able to, please [click here](#) to complete their survey on tail biting to provide further information to AHDB Pork.

Please speak to your vet about any questions you may have.

Feedback

Please let us know if there is anything that you would like including, or more information on, in a future newsletter.

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