

Avian Influenza Protection Zones – Higher Risk Areas

There is currently an extended protection zone period in England, Wales and Scotland until the 28th February 2017. This means that poultry keepers must their stock housed inside where practical, or **kept separate from wild birds**. This is due to further outbreaks of the highly pathogenic H5N8 Avian Influenza strain, the most recent being in Haltwhistle, Northumberland on the 24th February.

On the 28th February this requirement is being updated. Due to on-going risk of infection from wild birds, farms kept within a 'higher risk area' will be required to continue to keep their poultry housed or in fully netted enclosures to prevent further outbreaks. Poultry outside these higher risk areas can have supervised access to enclosed outdoor areas (providing some requirements are met first), although keepers are encouraged to keep a close eye on their birds.

Any of our clients who also have poultry, please [click here](#) for further information.

Edgar Pye Research Scholarship

Please can we take this opportunity to advertise the Edgar Pye Research Scholarship that is available from the Society of Feed Technologists. This scholarship sponsors a research-based project focusing on any area of animal feeding including animal nutrition and management, feed production and marketing.

This is aimed at anyone that is either studying agriculture or a related subject, or who is already employed in the Animal Feed Industry.

Please [click here](#) for further information including details on submission rules. Application closing date is the 31st May 2017.

Rodent Control

Further to our October 2016 newsletter (please [click here](#) to read), can we remind our clients that in April 2016 edible rodenticides (first and second generation products containing anticoagulant active ingredients) started to be sold with legally binding instructions. This label requires the person buying and using these products to hold certified proof of competence in rodent control. Now only edible rodenticides with the new labels can be purchased.

The interim measure of being able to purchase products through membership to an assurance scheme such as Red Tractor ceased in Dec 2016 (*correction to October newsletter typo of Dec 2017*).

This means that now edible rodenticides can be purchased by farmers who either:

- Employ a professional pest contractor who are themselves certified as competent
- Gain a certificate through a written/online exam to demonstrate competence

Please [click here](#) for further information.

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AHDB Pork – Gilt Meeting

AHDB Pork will be providing a training session on gilt management on Weds 1st March from 3-6pm at the Mid Yorkshire Golf Club, Darrington, WF8 3BP.

The session is aimed at both stockpeople and farm managers and aims to cover three areas – management of gilts from birth to weaning, rearing to final selection, and from selection to service. Speakers include Sebastian Casiro (PIC), Philip van der Brink (SwinNco), Ian Gillies (Rattlerow Farms) and a regional producer.

To reserve your place at this meeting and for the meal provided afterwards, please contact AHDB Pork on 024 7647 8793 or email pork.kt@ahdb.org.uk with your details.

‘This is British Pig Farming’ Video

In mid-January, AHDB Pork released a video on British Pig Farming. The aim of this was to explain an overview of current British pig farming with the target audience being people who may not have been onto a pig farm before.

We are proud that this video features one of our clients Richard Lister, current NPA chairman, and also one of the BVG pig team vets and current Pig Veterinary Society Junior Vice-President Duncan.

Please [click here](#) to view the video.

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

Please keep a monitor on the temperature and ventilation of your buildings. Significant temperature changes, such as that which we are seeing at the moment, are stressful to pigs and inadequate ventilation will result in an increase in pathogens in the environment.



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At the moment we are seeing some respiratory issues and vice in growers and finishers, which has been linked to inadequate ventilation and temperature changes within the day and especially between day and night. In naturally ventilated buildings, temperatures need to be monitored and altered accordingly for the pigs throughout the day. Be careful at night time as well when no one is around and where buildings can cool down considerably, with cold air and draughts at pig height occurring.

Please discuss any issues that you may be having with your vet.

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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