

2017

Happy New Year
from the
Bishopton
Pig Team

Avian Influenza Protection Zone Extended

As described in our previous newsletter edition, there have been a series of outbreaks of a highly pathogenic H5N8 Avian Influenza strain across Europe during autumn of last year. This has been reported in both poultry and wild birds.

A protection zone was put in place in England, Wales and Scotland on the 6th December 2016 for a planned 30 day period, as an extra biosecurity measure. This has now been **extended to the 28th February** due to confirmed H5N8 cases within the UK.

On the 16th December 2016, 10 days after the protection zone was established, the virus was confirmed in turkeys at a poultry farm near Louth, Lincolnshire. On the 3rd January it was isolated in backyard poultry in Carmarthenshire, and a further case has been confirmed in Settle, North Yorkshire in a small flock of backyard poultry on the 6th January.

The protection zone means poultry keepers must keep chickens, hens, ducks and turkeys housed inside where practical, or **keep separate from wild birds**. For farmed geese, game birds and other captive birds where housing is less practical, keepers must take steps to keep them separate from wild birds.

Defra have now made it clear that any farm that has any poultry (including those kept as pets) who contract avian flu will need to undergo a full farm clean and disinfection programme, regardless of what other livestock species there are present – this will be at the owner's expense.

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

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SRUC - Pig Aggression Survey

We just wanted to make our clients aware that SRUC in Scotland has a PhD student who is looking into aggression between pigs. She is interested in methods that farmers have already used to combat any aggression their pigs may have experienced, both successful and unsuccessful, as well as farmers' views on practical and financial management of the problem.

If you would be interested in taking part in this survey, please speak to your vet for more information and contact details.

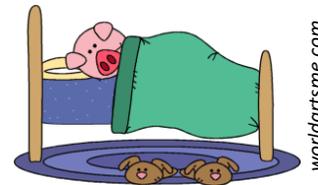
BVG Veterinary Health Plan/Manual

As you may already be aware, we are currently updating our Veterinary Health Plan which will be rolled out to all our farms early this year.

This revised version will have an increased number of policies included and stand as more of a standalone farm manual which can be used as a useful reference source. We hope all our clients will find this helpful and we will welcome any feedback.

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

At the moment we are still seeing an increased level of respiratory disease affecting a variety of ages, but particularly recently weaned pigs and, on some farms, finishers. Clinical signs include sneezing, snotty noses, enlarged eyelids and tear staining, giving mainly evidence of viral circulation.



Results from investigations into the causes are showing circulating 'flu and/or PRRS viruses, with some secondary infections occurring. These include *Streptococcus suis* (which can cause meningitis - pigs showing nervous signs, paddling their legs whilst lying on their side - or it can cause sudden deaths) as well as Glässers disease. Please [click here](#) to read our articles on both these diseases.

We are also still seeing tail biting affecting some farms. Tail biting can be linked to many interacting and complicated factors that can be difficult to solve, including feed and water issues, stocking density issues, ventilation changes including humidity levels, as well as disease pressure. Tail biting is an immediate welfare problem and so finding the cause of the problem as soon as possible is important.

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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