



The Farm Medicine Store

Many new year's resolutions might not make it to the end of January- but how about adding a long-term important one to your list this year?

Veterinary medicines represent an important part of the health, welfare and productivity of your farm business. Furthermore, as we embark on serious trade negotiations in 2020, veterinary medicines are one of the key areas of concerns for UK and overseas consumers of livestock food products. It is therefore essential that confidence is high in our products as we seek to show how 'British is Best' and support the trade campaign based on 'Britain (and NI) is Great'. Imports of US and South American beef represent a major threat; it is helpful if we can show that medicines are used much more sustainably in UK farming. This is especially important with the threat of antimicrobial resistance and concerns over medicines residues in food for human consumption.

Retailers and processors are also taking a much stronger line. Farm assurance inspections and herd health planning now increasingly include both training on how to use medicines responsibly but also assess how they are stored.



Vaccines and the cold chain:

Biological medicines such as vaccines often have very specific temperature ranges that they work under. Too hot in summer, or freezing in winter, may mean they work less well - or not at all. Fridges that don't work well...or not at all...may result in TOTAL loss of your carefully produced vaccine investment. In some cases the entire vaccine supply for the farm for the whole year has been compromised. It may not be immediately obvious, but these vaccines that do not work properly can represent a ticking time bomb as the farm is no longer protected against serious disease outbreaks. Once the turkey leftovers are safely eaten-a new farm fridge from the January sales might be worth a look?



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Sharps boxes and disposal:

Sharps such as needles are dangerous. They can transmit a range of diseases and safe disposal is essential. We supply safe disposal sharps bins for your use on farm. Please ensure you staff and family are trained in safe use. Similarly, empty pharmaceutical containers such as medicines bottles can be disposed of using specific bins which we can supply and dispose of through our pharmaceutical waste transporter. Please also be aware of allergies to medicines such as penicillins among your staff.



Hygiene, security and expiry dates:

Finally, how clean, secure and tidy is your store? The general public expect our farms to have a genuinely clean and secure area to store medicines-and that old and out of date products will be disposed of. This is being taken very seriously by farm assurance organisations and suppliers as trade talks gain momentum.

Please discuss your store with your herd or flock vet

BISHOPTON

VETERINARY GROUP



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