

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2017

As we approach the festive season, all the members of the Bishopton Pig Team would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, and a healthy and prosperous 2017.

Diagnostic laboratories are often closed over this holiday period, so please contact us first before you submit anything to make sure that samples will be accepted!...

Electronic Medicine Book (eMB)

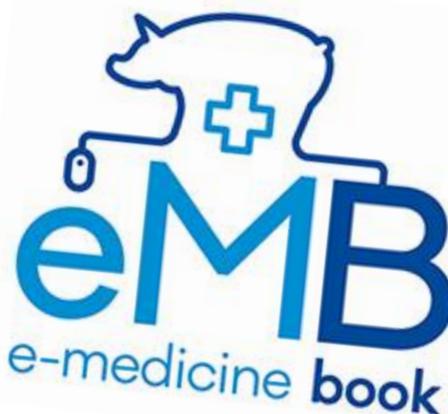
The electronic medicine book (eMB) was launched in April by AHDB Pork, with support from the VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directorate). This was in response to the Government requirement to produce collated antibiotic usage records.

As you may already be aware, specific government targets have been set to reduce antibiotic usage in food-producing animals by 2018. These figures will undergo further discussion next year to set species specific targets. Initial data appears to show a reduction within the pig industry over the last two years, although to accurately quantify this we do need to have more precise collated antibiotic usage data.

The revised Red Tractor standards, that are currently in the consultation phase, also detail a new assurance scheme requirement that the eMB is used to provide the collated antibiotic data. This requirement would come into force on the 1st October 2017, needing 6 months of data to be entered (so dating back to 1st April 2017).

As an industry, accurate collated antibiotic usage is needed before this however, as this anonymous information will be used during discussions on antibiotic reduction targets. Please can we encourage all our clients to look into entering their antibiotic usage data on to the eMB. Please [click here](#) to see the AHDB Pork eMB user help guide.

We will be contacting all our clients about this shortly, offering additional help if required, but please do contact your vet with any questions you may have in the meantime.



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Avian Influenza Prevention Zones

Due to the outbreaks of a highly pathogenic H5N8 Avian Influenza strain across Europe during autumn of this year within poultry and wild birds, a protection zone is now in place across the whole of England, Wales and Scotland. There have been two reported cases so far in Lincolnshire and Wales.

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.

This extra biosecurity measure was established on the 6th December and is due to remain in place for 30 days (until 4th January 2017), although this may change. Please [click here](#) for more information.

Proposed Revised Red Tractor Standards – Feedback Reminder

Red Tractor have recently released their proposed revised standards that, if accepted, will come into force next year on the 1st October 2017. Currently they are available to view ([click here](#)) whilst they are still in the consultation phase. These standards will then be finalised early next year.

Please can we again encourage all our clients to have a look at these proposed standards as soon as possible and provide feedback on the changes to the NPA. Any changes are written in red and the NPA will be producing an industry response on these changes back to Red Tractor.

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

Please can we take this opportunity to remind our clients that although biosecurity is important all year round, as we enter the colder and wetter part of the year, risk of introduction of infection into your farm is at its highest.



Please remember that cull sow transport probably represents more risk than slaughter pigs due to the smaller nature of loads and the busy nature of markets with multiple sources. If stopping transport lorries at your perimeter is not possible, at the very least wash off their wheel arches and tyres and then disinfect them, both before and after the visit. Make sure these washings have no possible contact with your pigs.

Many disinfectants work poorly in low temperatures. To increase effectiveness, we recommend disinfectants are used at double strength in critical areas during the colder months.

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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