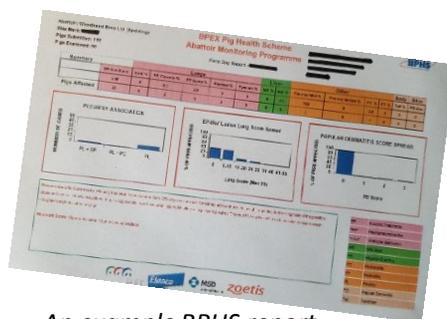




Possible Cessation of BPHS Abattoir Lesion Monitoring

Abattoir lesion monitoring through the British Pig Health Scheme (BPHS) has been running in England and Wales since 2005 and has provided a valuable tool for assessing pig herd health to most producers sending slaughter pigs to abattoirs involved in the scheme.

AHDB Pork have announced that the **scheme is likely to end in March 2017** after which only information produced from meat inspectors under the Food Standards Agency's Collection and Communications of Inspection Results (CCIR) system will be available. Whilst there are initiatives to improve the reliability of this data, investigations have indicated that currently CCIR does not provide information to producers of sufficient accuracy for it to replace BPHS data.



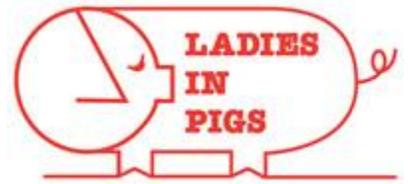
An example BPHS report

Recent official reports into antibiotic resistance confirm that in the near future greater restriction will be placed on the use of antibiotics in farmed animals with reduction targets to be set. To help in this crucial time, improved vaccines and vaccine delivery technologies are being developed, alongside management protocols, which are expected to provide better tools for improvement of pig health. It is critical that accurate, timely and robust lesion data from slaughtered pigs are available to producers and their vets on a continuous basis to allow monitoring of the effectiveness of both reduced antibiotic use and the potential implementation of these new strategies. This data is especially important for ongoing monitoring of disease control protocols during these economically challenging times.

Please can we encourage all of our clients to actively contact the AHDB Pork Producer Board to express their concerns at the planned loss of BPHS at a time when this surveillance is so necessary and before an alternative of similar reliability is available for pig producers, their vets, and the wider industry.

Bishopton Open Day Invite

All staff at the practice are pleased to invite both you and your family to our open day which is taking place this year on Saturday 2nd July, between 2-5pm, at the Ripon practice.



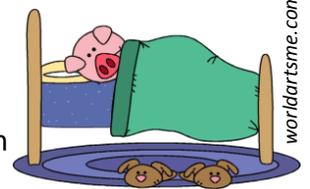
During the afternoon there will be tours of the small animal facilities available, along with pet care demonstrations and also various stands for local charities. On the large animal side there will be displays demonstrating the different areas of work carried out by the farm, pig and equine teams, both on farm and also through the training services we provide with an opportunity to speak to people if you have any questions. We are fortunate that Ladies in Pigs will also be present – they will have taster samples available of various pork-based products for you to try, along with some recipe books.

There will be some refreshments available and we hope you can join us for what should be a great afternoon. If you have any questions, please contact the practice on 01765 602396.

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

At the moment we are seeing inappetant sows with high temperatures and an increase in abortions due to an increased Erysipelas challenge on farm.

Erysipelas is caused by a bacterium called *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* that lives in soil and muck for extended periods of time, up to 6 months or even longer. Once a pig is infected, it can transmit between animals by contact with infected saliva, urine, faeces and nasal discharges. Birds and small mammals can act as a reservoir of infection.



There are different forms of clinical signs seen with this disease. In acute, very sudden onset Erysipelas, affected pigs have a high temperature and decreased appetite. They can be dull and may be reluctant to move. The classic 'diamond' skin lesions are not always present, although they can certainly appear around points of stress in a sow's cycle.

As infection with Erysipelas causes an increased temperature, affected sows can abort, while boars can become sub-fertile for up to 6-8 weeks as a high body temperature will damage the sperm that are undergoing development at that time within the testes.

Please [click here](#) to read our full article on Erysipelas and please do contact your vet with 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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