



@howellsvets



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www.howellsvets.co.uk

01347 823678

York Road, Easingwold YO61 3EB

WHAT'S ON

Making the Most of Medicines Course for Red Tractor Compliance

Monday 8th December
3.00-5.00pm: The Gavel Café, Thirsk Auction mart
Trainer: Ellie Button MRCVS



Friday 5th December Q FEVER (THE HIDDEN MENACE)

Dairy Discussion

Vet: Ellie Button
12pm to 2pm
The Bay Horse Market Weighton
YO43 3AN

Stock talk and supper evening

Monday 19th January
FANTASTIC FORAGE
Cattle and Sheep
Vet: Lizzie Relph
6.30pm: The Gavel Café, Thirsk Auction Mart.

Join us for a pie and pea and find out how you can get the most from your grass forages during housing for ewes and suckler cows

Monday 5th January Lambing For Beginners

Trainer: Ellie Button
Sheep Clients

Monday 2nd March Lambing For Beginners

Trainer: Ellie Button
Sheep Clients

SHOULD WE QUERY Q FEVER IN OUR DAIRY HERDS?

Should we query Q fever in our dairy herds?

The answer is yes. There is growing evidence that high numbers of dairy herds in the UK have been exposed to the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii* that causes Q fever. Whilst the economic losses can be considered so should the risk to human health as it is a zoonotic disease.

Infection is spread through inhalation or ingestion of bacteria shed in birthing material but also faeces, milk and urine.

Symptoms of Q fever tend to be more visible with trends at a herd level. These may include:

- Increased abortions, stillbirths or weak calves
- Increased retained foetal membranes
- Increased metritis, endometritis or pyometra
- Fertility concerns: increased calving to conception, returns to service

Diagnosis can be determined by bulk milk samples or blood.

Antibiotics appear to be of little use to treat the disease. Focus is on prevention by reducing environmental contamination and vaccination.

If you have concerns for human health, please contact your GP.

If you are suspicious of Q fever in your herd, please contact one of the vets to discuss your individual case. It will be considered along with nutritional status and infectious diseases such as BVD, IBR or Leptospirosis.



VET'S VIEWPOINT



Sam Clark
BVM, BVS, BVMedSci
(Hons), MRCVS

For most farmers, the tups are out, and the ewes are enjoying being left alone to get on with pregnancy. The majority of issues we see around lambing time can be traced back to nutrition - from twin lamb to mastitis and lamb hypothermia. The question then becomes what we can do about it.

Scanning for numbers is one of the best ways we can determine a ewe's needs up to lambing. We can use these groups to target treatments, and supplementary feed the ewes that need it. The needs of ewes carrying singles are very different to those carrying twins and triplets.

This upcoming lambing season will be my second at Howells and I am very much looking forward to it. 2025 season was my first lambing season as a vet and I enjoyed hitting the ground running, lambing sheep throughout Yorkshire. This season I look forward to getting a bit more in depth with flock level interventions. I am looking forward to Lizzie's supper and stock talk about forage nutrition for cattle and sheep in January, I'm sure there will be plenty of good take home messages about how you can make the most out of your forage on farm this winter.

CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Monday 22nd December 8.30am to 6pm
Tuesday 23rd December 8.30am to 6pm
Christmas Eve 8.30am to 5pm
Christmas Day Emergency on call
Boxing Day Emergency on call
Saturday 27th December 9am to 1pm, then on call
Sunday 28th December Emergency on call

Monday 29th December 8.30am to 6pm
Tuesday 30th December 8.30am to 6pm
New years Eve 8.30am to 5pm
New years Day Vets available for emergency calls
Friday 2nd January 8.30 – 6pm
Saturday 3rd January: 9am to 1pm, then on call
Sunday 4th January: Emergency on call

CHRISTMAS VAN DELIVERIES

FESTIVE BANK HOLIDAY FARM DELIVERY DAYS:

If your normal van day is:	Please place your order no later than:	Your order will be delivered on:
CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER	THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER	TUESDAY 23 DECEMBER
BOXING DAY FRIDAY 26 DECEMBER	FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER	MONDAY 29 DECEMBER
NEW YEARS DAY THURSDAY 01 JANUARY	WEDNESDAY 24 DECEMBER	TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER

**LAST DATE FOR FEC SAMPLES TO
BE COLLECTED FROM FARM:
19TH December 2025**



We'll be changing our van routes on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day as our team have a well-deserved rest. Please can you be mindful when placing any orders for the van to ensure we can deliver them on time to you.

If you find you need anything, you can always email orders into us at sales@howellsvets.co.uk.



Independent and proudly supporting our farming community for over 30 years