



The
GEORGE
Farm Vets

SEPTEMBER 23



CALF HOUSING MATTERS AND MAKING THE MOST OF RPA GRANTS

Good calf housing is key to having healthy calves. More dairies and calf rearers have moved to automated milk machines and some people love them. However, with this comes the need to increase group size, this is always a challenge when dealing with younger calves. Ensuring that the age range is kept to a minimum is vital in a dairy or calf rearing situation.

Controlling hygiene and having an effective vaccine protocol are good first steps to healthy group housed calves, however ventilation is equally important. Most calves are kept wherever there is space rather than in purpose-built accommodation. If you're lucky you can use the prevailing wind to your advantage to help ventilate your shed but for most people, getting fresh air in is a challenge.

Things to bear in mind that affect ventilation:

- Ensuring good drainage
- Sensible stocking density
- Limiting the age range within the same air space

Positive pressure ventilation tube systems can be added to most sheds and we have used these very successfully on lots of our farms.



MEETINGS COMING UP...

MEDICINE HANDLING COURSE

@ The Practice on

Thursday 14th September

11am TO 12.30pm



(Suitable for dairy, beef and sheep)

AHDB Calf Week meeting

@ Tresham Farm, GL12 7RW

Wednesday 20th September

Discussing calf housing, parasite management and transitioning onto a winter diet



COURSES IN SEPTEMBER:

FIRST AID FOR FEET:-

Wednesday 6th September. Old Sodbury.
£300+VAT

AI COURSE:-

13th-16th September. Newent, Glos.
£515+VAT

If you are interested in any of the above please contact the office on 01666 823035

Setting up a new build is a great opportunity to get these things right and future-proof your business, whether that be for herd growth, changes in contracts or labour shortages.

There is a new grant opening this summer for calf housing, it is available for all cattle farmers that have youngstock under 6 months of age. The minimum grant you can apply for is £15,000 (40% of £37,500). The maximum grant is £500,000 per applicant business. (The minimum grant amount does not include costs associated with rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) panels.) The aim of the grant is to improve calf health and welfare, enhance environmental sustainability and introduce innovation. Working with us will be vital as we need to provide a letter with your application.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/calf-housing-for-health-and-welfare-2023/how-the-calf-housing-for-health-and-welfare-grant-works>

If you are considering the calf housing grant or changing any other aspect of calf husbandry why not use the Animal Health and Welfare grant to get myself or one of the other vets out on farm to discuss these topics in more depth. I can talk you through possible building plans and make recommendations.

Like it or not, applying for grants and funding is how you will receive your subsidies going forward. The animal health and welfare pathway (AHWP) is part of the Sustainable Farming Initiative and as vets we are well placed to help you apply for this money.

The AHWP is the first stage of what the government hopes will be a progressive and effective pathway of funding and grants that is tailored to what the farmer needs. For example after your initial AHWP visit is carried out you may select cow lameness as a priority - down the line this will open up grants for foot trimming crushes etc. These promises are a way off at the moment but the important thing for now is to **ENGAGE** with the process.

If farmers do not make use of this money, the message is that you don't need it. Our aim as vets is always to prevent rather than treat. This funding is a chance to have a few hours of vet time for free to discuss what didn't go well last year and agree some changes to improve matters.

What do you get?

- Beef farmers get £522, dairy £372 and sheep £436

Are you eligible?

- You need to have over 11 cattle and/or 21 sheep, a single business identifier (SBI) and a CPH number in order to be eligible

What do you HAVE to do?

- Cattle farmers have to do BVD testing, sheep farmers have to do some worm egg counts

How does it work?

To register interest: <https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/register-your-interest>

- They will check you are eligible and then email you a link to officially apply
- Once officially applied you will be given an agreement number
- Once you have the agreement number you can contact us to book in your visit. Once you get your agreement number you have 6 months to use it.

The George farm vets are fully engaged with this process and can help you apply if you need us to. We are committed to helping you get the most out of the funding available to you. Please contact your vet if you want to discuss any of the above points in further detail.



Kat Hart

COMPASSION RESPECT INTEGRITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESSION CARE

T: 01666 823035 Option "1" for visits or enquiries, "2" for medicines or shop, "3" for TB testing