



What is this new Vet Attestation?

The “Vet Attestation” or Statutory Health Attestation is a new veterinary certification that will be required from the 13th December 2023. This is required to allow products of animal origins to be exported to the EU.

Why do we need more vet paperwork?

When products of animal origin (e.g. meat, milk, leather) are exported to the EU, the producer/manufacture requires an export health certificate to accompany the shipment and allow it access to the EU.



Many owners may not be certain if sold animals/products of animal origins derived from their animals will be exported to the EU. Even if meat is not directly exported to the EU, other byproducts may be.

Due to a change in legislation post-Brexit, the EU now require proof that the origin farm has undergone regular visits by a veterinary surgeon to verify the absence of notifiable diseases.

Without the attestation, the official veterinarian at the abattoir may not be able to sign additional documents required for the export health certificates to allow animal products to be exported - possibly affecting the price you will receive.

Therefore DEFRA has strongly recommended that all farm businesses are prepared for this

Do I need a Vet Attestation?

If you are currently part of an approved farm assurance scheme, such as Red Tractor, you do not need to take any further action. The assurance scheme is already noted as part of the food chain information.

If you plan or have already taken part in the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway initiative, the veterinary review and visit provides enough information to allow a vet attestation to be signed.

Otherwise if you are a non-assured owner, then you will need to obtain a valid vet attestation. Once a visit has taken place, the attestation form should be kept on farm with you and a copy will be stored on your records in the practice. The attestation form is valid for 12 months.

Do I need two vet attestations if I also keep sheep?

If you keep multiple species on the same farm, one attestation will cover both species presuming adequate biosecurity is in place. One attestation will cover one holding number.

Animal Health and Welfare Pathway

As mentioned in previous newsletters (April 2023), the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway was launched early in 2023 to support improvement in cattle health and welfare as part of the Sustainable Farming Initiative. It is eligible to anyone with more than 11 head of cattle, and those eligible for BPS. The amount of funding covered for beef cattle is £522 per year.

Once you have signed up and received your approval number from DEFRA we will undertake a Health and Welfare Review covering biosecurity, medicine usage and health status on farm within 6 months of receiving your approval number. At this step a vet attestation can be signed).

As part of the health review, it requires a BVD youngstock screen to monitor current levels in your herd. Blood sampling 5 animals between 9-18 months will give a good representation of BVD levels in the herd. Currently tag and test results are not accepted.

Red Tractor Health Plan

Although often viewed as time consuming or paper pushing, herd health plans can be useful documents to highlight possible bottlenecks in your system and a time to brainstorm ideas to overcome these.

As mentioned previously, if you are currently a member of Red Tractor you do not need a vet attestation.

In addition, Red Tractor requires a BVD management plan as part of the herd health plan- if adding in a BVD youngstock screen why not tie it in with the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway?



As mentioned above- the vet attestation will be required from the 13th of December. If you have any questions please contact the office to discuss further.

Vet Tech Update

This month we have 2 new faces joining our Vet Tech team: Amy Sheppard and Bethany Davies, who are already out on farm TB testing! They are looking forward to meeting you all.

Amy



Beth



Liver Fluke Testing

We can now offer in-house Fluke Egg detection on our OvaCyte machines™.

As it has been a particularly mild and wet autumn so far, the risk of liver fluke is high. With 5 grams of faeces we can detect if there are adult liver fluke or rumen fluke present.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Skittles

Throughout October, Bridget and the Farm Team (mostly Bridget) organised 3 skittle evenings at Wilcot, Luckington and Guiting Power to promote mental health in the farming community.

These events were well attended and an enjoyable evening for all with the raffle raising an incredible £835 for the Farming Community Network and DPJ Foundation

We are now selling the George Farm Vets charity calendar with proceeds going to the above mentioned charities. We would like to thank everyone for attending, and a massive thank you to Bridget for organizing. If you would like to purchase a calendar please contact the dispensary on 01666 823035 (Option 2)



All the best, Keir

