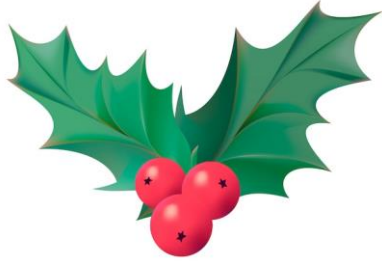




Farm newsletter

Tel: 01566 772371 www.castleveterinarygroup.co.uk



December 2024

Farm Vet Service Holiday Opening Hours

	Launceston	Liskeard branch
Christmas Eve	8.30am-5.30pm	8.45am-5.30pm
Christmas Day	Emergency service	Branch Closed – Emergency service available
Boxing Day	Emergency service	Branch Closed – Emergency service available
Friday 27th	8.30am-5.30pm	8.45am-6.00pm
Saturday 28th	8.30am-12.30pm Followed by emergency service	Branch closed – Emergency service available
Sunday 29th	Emergency service	Branch closed – Emergency service available
Monday 30th	8.30am-5.30pm	8.45am-6.00pm
Tuesday 31st	8.30am-5.30pm	8.45am-5.30pm
New Years Day Weds 1st January	Emergency service	Branch closed – Emergency service available
Thursday 2nd January	8.30am-5.30pm	8.45am-6.00pm

Delayed, due to snow! Lameness - individual and flock management in Small Holdings

The plan to join vets Natalie and Lucy in November for an evening on sheep lameness was scuppered by snow!

We will now be running the evening on Tuesday, December 17th from 1830.

Practical tips and (hopefully!) some specimens to examine will make this a very valuable evening, giving you transferable skills for your flock.

Bring along some warm layers, as any practical elements will take place in our lambing bay!

Please give the surgery a call to RSVP, the cost is £25/attendee, food will of course be provided (+Mince Pies!).

When? 17th December, 1830-2030

Where? Castle Vets, Launceston

Cost? £25/attendee



The first ever Castle Vets Dairy Herdsperson Course concludes



Last month saw the last of six vet-led sessions in Castle Vets' first ever Dairy Herdsperson course. All ten participants completed coursework throughout, and attended sessions on: *Lameness, Mastitis + drying off, Cow signals + nutrition, Calf management, Treating the sick cow and Calving + fertility*. Supported by Young Farmer clubs, via the Dartington Cattle Breeding Trust, our course graduated attendees from both Cornwall and Devon.

We wanted to take this opportunity to thank the six different dairies that have hosted us since August: Duchy College, the Hoares of Trenance, Caitlin Hancock of New Hartswell, the Sampsons of Hartshole, the



Uglows of Maxworthy and the Gillbard's of Tor View.

We also would like to congratulate those who have completed our course – if you know them, be sure to say well done!

- Henry Tucker, Arrallas Farm, Truro
- Hannah Thomas, West Rowden Farm, Lifton
- Imogen Ellis, currently completing her studies at Duchy
- Henry Fraser, Trenance Farm, Saltash
- Kate Williams
- Frankie Rikard, Boswidjack Farm, Falmouth
- Matt Gillbard, Tor View Farm
- Jackson Kramer, Tor View Farm
- Lawrence Pullen, Trink Dairy, St. Ives
- Abbie Hannaford, Higher Maxworthy Farm, Launceston



Some feedback from our attendees:

“I have really enjoyed the course. Meeting other farmers and learning from them, as well as Lucy, Helen and Bekky. Looking around other farms was really interesting as well. The course covered a wide variety of topics well”

“Loved it all! Definitely added a practical element to compliment my studies – would recommend to Duchy students!”

“Excellent course! Well planned and executed. Loved the range of topics, all very applicable. Learnt loads!”

The course was designed and run by our vet Lucy, supported by vets Helen, Bekky, James and our vet Tech Torie. We are hoping to run another Herdsperson course next summer, so watch this space!

Ordering Medication

As of August 2023, we changed our medicines ordering policy to ensure all prescriptions can be approved, processed, and supplied before our branches close each day. With that in mind, ***please be advised the latest time to place an order for same day collection at Launceston is now 5pm.***

After this time, we are still happy to take your meds order over the phone, but it will be processed at the start of the next working day. In addition, to help you keep on top of your medicine stock, ***we also now offer online medicines ordering.*** This is available 24hours a day, via our website, and we aim to complete all orders within one working day:

<https://castleveterinarygroup.co.uk/farm-vet-launceston/contact-us/request-medication/>

All requests are reviewed by a veterinary surgeon, who may ring you back, if any clarification or discussion is needed before they can prescribe your drugs.

TBAS – free tailored TB Advice from our vets

Helen, Andy and Richard have all undertaken extensive training to become TBAS qualified advisors. Currently, the government is providing funding for them to come out to your holding(s). TB testing can seem a thankless task, and Cornwall and Devon are amongst the worst affected areas in the UK. Please give us a ring to book in for this free support.

On-Farm advice visit

Your vet will discuss your farm set up, the concerns you currently have regarding TB, and issues you may face in the future. If you have a Farm Level Data Pack from APHA, it would be useful to share this with the vet. They will then have a walk around your farm buildings and fields to better understand your current situation. Throughout the visit the vet will identify potential areas where TB risk could be eliminated or reduced discussing why these are risks and how you can control them. At the end of the visit you and your vet will agree on four recommendations you can carry out.

There will be a second visit three – six months later to assess what recommendations have been concluded and what was involved in completing them including the time and monetary costs associated with each.

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Don't worry we are here to help

The vet is there to help. The idea is you and your TBAS vet can look at TB as an infectious disease and the recommendations are the start of an action plan to reduce your risk and length of a TB breakdown.

There is no penalty for not completing the recommendations, however the feedback we have had is “why wouldn’t you”. Many of the recommendations are “no- regrets” which means they should not involve a large financial or time commitment.

If you have any questions or concerns about having an advice visit, just call us.

