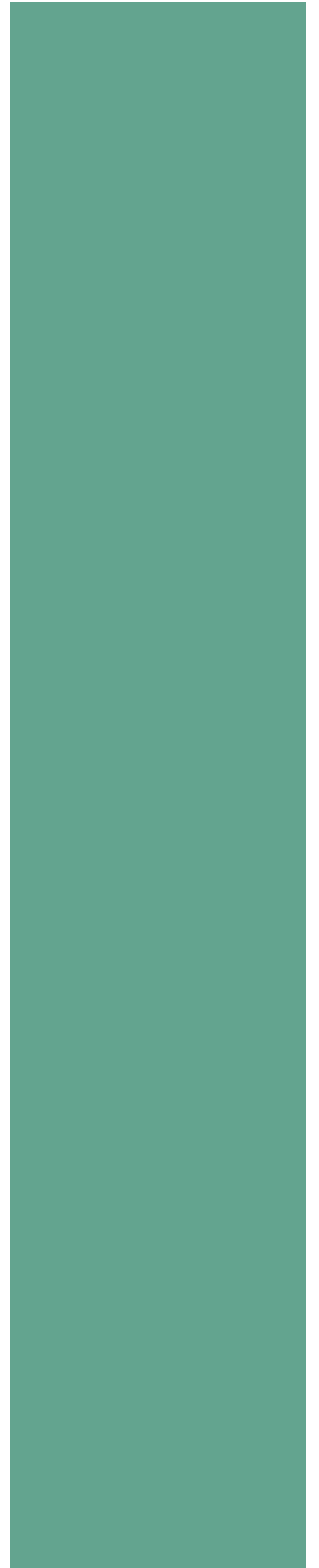


HN VG

Hook Norton Veterinary Group

summer 2023



02

TB NEWSLETTER

WELCOME to the TB-dedicated Farm Newsletter. Here you will find the latest TB updates from our Farm Vets & TB testers.

TB Testers

We have 5 TB testers who work within the Farm Team, testing cattle each week to ensure all farmers have their TB test completed within the time frame allocated by the Ministry.



Amy has been part of the team for nearly two years and sits on the steering group for the Oxfordshire TB Cluster Pilot Scheme. Amy is a first-generation farmer from Warwickshire, and Angus cattle are a particular favourite!



Most of our clients will recognise Esme, if not from TB testing, then from her previous roles in the practice. Outside of work, you will find Esme with her horses, helping her fiance on the farm or planning her wedding, which is happening later this year!



Tom has been on the TB Team for 18 months, coming from his family’s business of pheasant-rearing. Tom loves biscuits if you have him testing on your farm!



Join us in welcoming Dinu back to the TB Team, after some time off, he has been with the practice for 7 years. Dinu has a cracking sense of humour and is a stickler for being on time, ALWAYS!



Chloe is the newest member of the TB Team, with her dog Archie. Chloe is currently our only Vet Tech, and can help support you on-farm with anything from disbudding to AI. Outside of work, Chloe is an active member of her local Young Farmers Club.



TB Meeting

Join the Oxfordshire TB Cluster Project for another farm-focused meeting on the 26th of June, at Lessor Farm, Milcombe, OX15 4RT, by kind permission of Bertie Facon.

The steering group have taken on board the feedback from the last meeting and hope that the forthcoming meeting has something for everyone and will be even more informative.

The group will be split so that everyone can rotate around 3 interactive expert sessions, topics include:

- » Cattle Vaccination & skin test
- » Wildlife with emphasis on deer, including the use of cameras
- » Biosecurity solutions you can implement using on farm materials

There will also be supplier offers on biosecurity equipment and food and drink for everyone attending. The meeting is free, but we do need you to confirm attendance as we are limited on places.

WHEN: 26th June
WHERE: Lessor Farm, Milcombe, OX15 4RT
TIME: 5 pm - 7 pm

Please email oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk or speak to Charlotte Harrison or Amy Brant to attend.

TOP TIPS FOR TEST DAY

THE CRUSH:

Check your crush is oiled to ensure it is quick enough to catch your stock.



HOLDING AREAS:

Are your holding areas going to keep your stock contained? Are the fences or gates high enough and strong enough while they are waiting to enter the race? This is one of the key places where cattle escape!

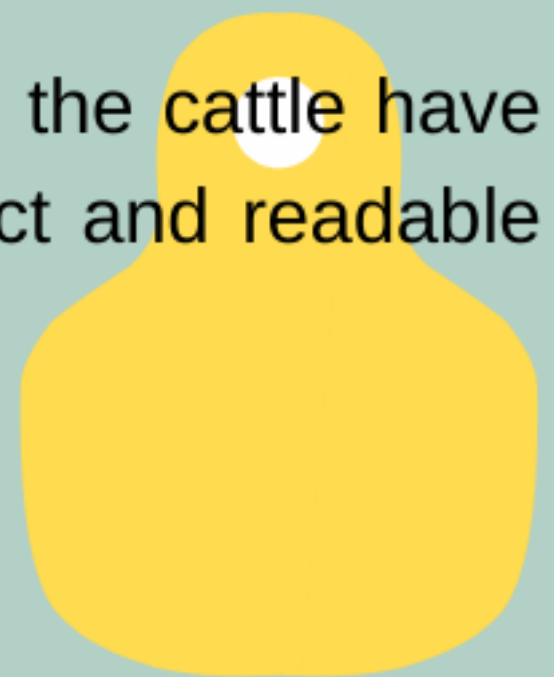
CATCHING CATTLE:

Catch your cattle in good time to help us be on time for our next client.



EAR TAGS:

Check all the cattle have the correct and readable ear tags.



MANY HANDS MAKE

LIGHT WORK:

- Call some fellow farmers to help you on the day if you are short of hands.

GROUPING ANIMALS:

Running cows & calves down a race separately will help reduce concerns about crushing smaller animals.



Last but not least, keep hydrated, sunscreen and a cuppa for your TB tester is very much appreciated!



The Farming Community Network

The Farming Community Network is there to help you at any time; if you don't want to call, you can also email (help@fcn.org.uk). Phone lines are open 7am to 11 pm every single day of the year.

All support from FCN is none judgmental. They listen and agree with you on the next steps to help you with any concerns; from finances to animal health, accidents, relationship breakdowns, depression, feed, animal disease, and Tb breakdown. You are not alone; FCN is there to help you.

Are you really as tough as old boots?



Stress, anxiety, loneliness, bereavement, depression, retirement, illness, family concerns, worries about the future...

We all experience these things at some stage in our lives.

If you need to talk, we're here to listen.

Call 03000 111 999

Email help@fcn.org.uk

We are farming people and we are here to help.

FCN

THE FARMING
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

Take advantage of free TBAS visits!

We are still offering free of charge TBAS visits with Charlotte, Imogen & Juliet.

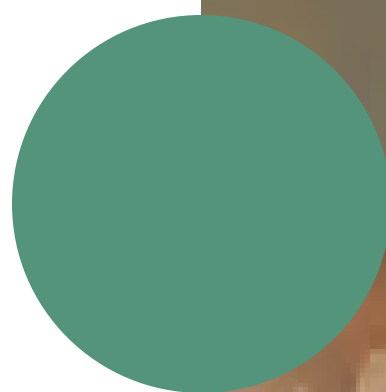
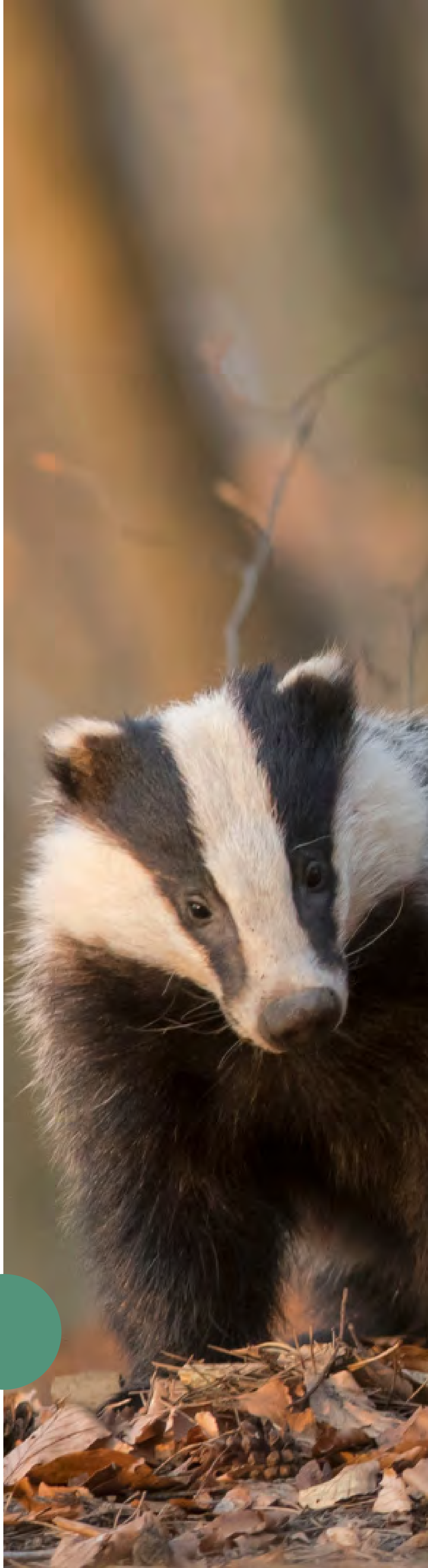
These consist of two visits, six months apart, that will offer a bespoke approach to TB on your farm. We will be approaching TB like every other disease, highlighting risk levels, areas for improvement and discussing solutions for the future.

We are able to share the latest data and give insight into possible vaccination & testing. The first visit is two hours long, with a walk around the farm/fields, ending with four main points for improvement. The second visit is six months later to discuss progress and top up on any areas missed, as there will inevitably be more questions!

If you fall into the TB Deddington Cluster area, additional funding may be available.

If you wish to know more or book in, please do not hesitate to contact our Farm team or one of our Farm Vets.

Let's try and utilise the government funding while it is available!



Oxfordshire TB Cluster Pilot Scheme - do you want to join the steering group?

The government is committed to implementing its 25-year strategy to eradicate Bovine TB. As part of this strategy the Oxfordshire TB Cluster Pilot Scheme, led by farmers, was launched to include a panel of like-minded individuals to work on solutions and tool kits to support the plan of eradicating Bovine TB. The group currently consists of farmers, wildlife control experts, vets, TB testers, and colleagues from various departments within DEFRA and APHA.

The group's aims.

- 1, Provide a range of additional control measures to farming communities within the cluster areas
- 2, Empower local farmers and vets/tb testers to design and implement bespoke approaches to tackle Btb, over and above the statutory surveillance measures already in place
- 3, Understand what is driving the genetically and epidemiology-linked clusters of Btb in the cluster areas

Farmers from inside or outside the area are welcome to support and participate in the group. If you would like to be involved in any way or think you may be a farm in the cluster area, please contact either Senior Farm Vet, Charlotte or ATT, Amy, for more information.

Cameras, do you know what wildlife is on your farm?

As part of the Oxfordshire TB Cluster Pilot Scheme, a number of cameras have been purchased for farmers to use free of charge over a 6-week period on-farm. Sim cards, batteries, and an information leaflet on how to set the cameras up are provided free of charge.

If you would like to use the cameras, please contact oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk or ATT Amy.



DID YOU KNOW?

9 TB related facts...

BADGER FOOTPRINTS LEAVE
A KIDNEY-SHAPED PAD
RATHER THAN A DIAMOND
SHAPE PAD YOU WOULD SEE
WITH A DOG

THE TB SKIN
TEST IS
99.98%
SPECIFIC

A BADGER
CAN FIT
THROUGH A
GAP OF 75
MM (3
INCHES)

BTB CAN
LIVE IN A
WATER
TROUGH
FOR UP TO
60 DAYS

TB IS A
ZOO NOTIC
DISEASE

TREAT
BOVINE TB
LIKE ANY
OTHER
DISEASE
YOU MAY
FACE
ON-FARM

TB IS THE
13TH
LEADING
CAUSE OF
DEATH IN
HUMANS
WORLDWIDE
AND THE
SECOND
LEADING
INFECTIOUS
KILLER
AFTER
COVID-19

IT IS A LEGAL
REQUIREMENT
TO REPORT
ALL SUSPICION
OF TB
INFECTION IN
THE
CARCASSES OF
FARMED
ANIMALS AND
PETS TO APHA

YOU WILL NOT GET SHUT DOWN FOR FINDING TB
LESIONS IN DEER/ IN A DEER CARCASS ON YOUR
FARM, UNLESS YOU ARE IN A LOW RISK AREA

GOATS, PIGS, SHEEP, CAMELIDS, CATS, AND DOGS
CAN ALL CONTRACT TB. THE INFECTION AND THE
TRANSMISSION RISK TO OTHER ANIMALS/HUMANS
DIFFER BETWEEN THESE SPECIES.



Hook Norton

Veterinary Group

Thank you for reading our first official TB newsletter, we hope you've found it insightful.

If you have any questions about anything mentioned in the newsletter, please contact us and speak to one of the Team. If you would like to sign up to the Oxfordshire Cluster Pilot Scheme newsletter, please email oxfordshirecluster.project@defra.gov.uk.



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