



Beeford Laboratory Services

Our lab services are undergoing a major reorganisation. As of 1st January our lab will be relocated to the same site as Minster Poultry in York - Biobest Laboratories, The Veterinary Surgery Salisbury Road, York YO26 4YN with both labs coming under the Biobest umbrella.

Our 2 staff members Sally Rowson and Romaine Naylor will be moving with the lab so there should be no change to the quality of results that you have come to expect. We hope with the added investment in the York site to be able to further develop tests such as in house PCRs to improve our diagnostic capability. Inevitably there will be some short term disruption as new systems bed down but we hope to keep this to a minimum.

All submissions of samples and post mortems can continue to be made as now but please drop off at vet surgery not at old Beeford Labs house as this is being sold. In addition we are utilising the Minster vets sites, Minster Vets Farm Department, York Livestock Centre, Murton, York YO19 5GF and Poultry Health Services Main Site Lane Dalton, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO7 3JA, as additional pick up points for bloods and swabs etc NOT carcasses.

We hope over next few months to be able to expand some of these into post mortem facilities as well.

Samples that you would normally post to us are best posted direct to York address

Best Practice for Clients Dropping Off Samples

- 📌 Samples should be dropped off to Garth before 2.30pm.
- 📌 Semen samples should be dropped off ideally before 2pm and at the **beginning** of the week.

- 📌 Ideally samples should be placed into a secondary leak proof bag or container with sufficient absorbent material e.g. Blue roll paper to absorb spillage
- 📌 They should be clearly labelled with your name and unit details.
- 📌 Please ask for a member of Garth Staff to assist you to fill in a submission form with as much history as possible.

Topical Talk – Swine Dysentery Awareness

Following recent publication pieces, disease outbreaks and current seasonal weather conditions, now is a good time to revisit and update our awareness of Swine Dysentery.

Protection and Prevention:

- Keep all unnecessary vehicles out. Restrict access to the perimeter of the unit (the ideal position for feed bins, incorporating their own blow tubes)
- Use disinfectant wheel washes
- Keep feeds covered and minimise spillages, keeping areas tidy to reduce areas for vermin to colonise
- Bird proof buildings and ensure perimeters are baited
- Single source pigs of known health status
- Closed breeding herds and All In All Out pig flows
- No unnecessary visitors! Anyone who does, MUST wear protective clothing provided exclusively for use on that unit (drivers are a significant vector for disease, due to dirty leggings and boots). Pig free periods should be observed.
- Provide Disinfectant foot dips
- Complete visitors books, with details of last pig contact
- Wash down and disinfect buildings, allowing sufficient time to dry (Virkon S, Biokill, Bioshield or similar). Include feed hoppers and water lines.



Pig and Poultry Conference 2015

November brought us the inaugural Pig and Poultry Conference held at Sandburn Hall near York. This event has been made possible now that Garth Pig Practice is part of the same group as Minster Poultry Vets from York and Poultry Health Services.

The conference theme was “Antibiotics; living with them, living without them”. This is a key issue we have in common with the poultry industry and the conference aimed to address the following questions:

Q. How do we monitor and measure usage currently?

Q. How do we monitor and measure going forward?

Q. How have our European counterparts coped without antibiotics?

Q. What are the alternatives?

We heard from speakers from AHDB, AHWBE as well as vets from Holland and Minster.

The gist is that we are going to have to reduce our industries use of antibiotics over the coming years. Currently the plan is that each unit's antibiotic usage will be reviewed at the vets visit at least annually. Although there is no obligation to reduce usage at present, we all need to be mindful of strategies, we may need to employ in order to reduce our own usage. This could include better cleaning and disinfection, improvements to buildings and management

strategies or the implementation of new vaccines.

If we look to the continent some of the strategies that have passed into legislation in these countries are really quite severe and the time scales for hitting targets have been tight. Although it is being managed on a voluntary basis in the UK at present, we all have a responsibility to make real efforts to address this problem, in order to avoid the legislation approach.

The collation of antibiotic usage data is now an obligatory part of Red Tractor and as such AHDB Pork are currently developing an online tool which will allow farmers to do this confidentially. There is no obligation to use this however but the vet reviewing your usage will easily be able to see what you have used.

Overall the conference was a great opportunity for the pig and poultry industry to share ideas and as at all of these sort of events, some of the most interesting points came from the audience at the Q+A sessions. The aim is for this event to become a regular feature on the calendar as another opportunity for us to share ideas across the intensive farming sector.

Congratulations to Duncan Hodgkinson from M & J Heath who won the unit manager of the year at the recent 2015 National Pig Awards.

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year



from everybody at

Garth Pig Practice