



Newsletter - Winter 2023



Firstly, what a year of change this has been for us all at Sandhill! It has been a truly positive one which couldn't have been achieved without the support of our loyal clients.

Updates



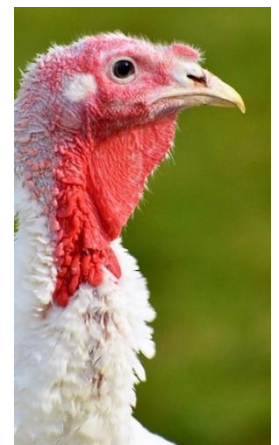
- We are now settled into our new premises at Barker Business Park, Melmerby, and enjoying the extra space and functionality of the building.
- Back in April, we welcomed our new receptionist, Becky, to the Sandhill team. She certainly had to hit the ground running as we had a very busy summer but rose to the challenge and with her cheery personality has quickly become an integral part of our team.
- Coming up, we are planning a **Poultry Open Day** in the spring so we can show clients both new and old our facilities and chat about the services we offer, more details to follow.
- We are also organising a **Mycoplasma Talk** in the New Year with the latest information and control strategies to benefit your site – date coming soon!
- **** New for 2024 – Health and Production Schemes ****. Bespoke flock health strategies tailored to the specific needs of your site, please speak to us for more details.

Avian Influenza (AI)

Biosecurity risks

Thankfully we're in a better position this year with AI but practicing optimal biosecurity is still paramount as the risk certainly hasn't gone away. A few important points to consider from our AI licensing work last year:

- **Foot dips** - inorganic matter, sunlight, rainwater and freezing temperatures all inactivate disinfectant in foot dips, so they must be covered and replaced frequently.
- **Remember your hands** – ideally, wear disposable gloves when in with the birds, alternatively, wash your hands before entering the bird area.





- **Cover inlets** - ensure there are no entry points for wild birds into poultry houses. Fans and air inlets must have wire mesh over them with an aperture of <math><2.5\text{cm}</math> (even if you have baffles).

AI vaccination – a topic extensively debated at the recent BFREPA LIVE attended by Dan. Whilst attractive in theory, sadly the politics (export restrictions) and the expensive compulsory surveillance of vaccinated flocks (estimated at £1000-£1500 per 16,000 laying birds per month) renders it currently unworkable.

Calcium and D3

Don't forget the importance of Vitamin D3!

- **Layers** - as shell quality declines later in lay providing extra calcium in the form of limestone or oyster shell is important. This should always be paired with a course of Vitamin D3 in the water to facilitate calcium absorption.
- **Broilers** – the provision of additional D3 in the water is vital to promote good leg health.

Water quality

A bird's most important resource is clean water but over time, biofilm commonly builds up in the water lines and compromises water quality, with consequences to health and performance (even when using mains water). We offer a water audit service, involving ATP readings together with cultures and mineral analysis, to guide formulation of an effective water sanitisation program for each individual site.

Supply of chemicals and supplements

We stock a range of detergents, disinfectants, water sanitisers and supplements at the practice and can source many more at competitive prices. Please get in touch to discuss with one of the team.

Finally.... Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from everyone at Sandhill!

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