

# Winter 2026 Farm Newsletter

**Please let us know if you have signed up/are going to sign up for the AHIC sustainable farming scheme!**

We need to fill out paperwork for your funding to be processed.

## Included in this issue:

- New staff members
- Pneumonia
- Emergency slaughter

### New Staff Members



**Connor**

Connor has joined Hafren in September and has an interest in large animal work however, since starting he has taken an interest in the poultry work we do. He went to Harper & Keele Veterinary school and mainly working out of our Newtown branch. Outside of work, he like walking with his dogs and country sports.

**Kate**

Kate recently graduated from Nottingham University after studying Veterinary Medicine and Surgery there. She is very glad to be back home and to have started working at Hafren, in our Llanidloes branch. During her spare time, her main interests are walking with her dogs, riding her horses and helping on the farm. She enjoys working with every species, but prefers large animal work. She is really enjoying it so far and looking forward to continuing progressing with the role!



**Sophie**

Sophie graduated from the University of Liverpool in July 2025. You have have seen her over the past 5 years on placement with our Knighton and Newtown branches, so we're thrilled to have her back! Sophie is local to both and is excited to finally join the team at Hafren. Outside of work, she enjoys running, teniis and going for long walks with her two spaniels/collie.

**Sarah**

Sarah is from the South of Ireland and graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine, Budapest in February 2024. She is the third member of her family to become a vet! Sarah was an event groom for nearly 10 years in an international event yard in Ireland before going back to university to become a vet. Wile she has a strong passion for and background in equine medicine, Sarah has always had an interest in farm animal medicine too. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, cooking, judging horses in Irish agricultural shows alongside her main interest side saddle.



## Hafren Veterinary Group

**Newtown**

01686 625344

**Llanidloes**

01686 413475

**Knighton**

01547 528292

**Cross Gates**

01597 851500



## Pneumonia

Pneumonia starts with **primary pathogens**, usually viruses, which weaken the body's defence systems and allow **secondary pathogens**, usually bacteria, into the respiratory tract. These primary pathogens include: bRSV, PI3, IBR, BVD and mycoplasma bovis. Stress can also act as a primary pathogen. **We can vaccinate against most primary pathogens**, but antibiotics are only effective against the secondary pathogens.

The estimated cost of pneumonia on UK farms is £82 per case, rising to £500 if an animal dies. The long term implication of pneumonia, such as reduced growth rates, are responsible for many of these costs.

### Prevention

- **Buying strategy** – buy well grown cattle (for their age) from reputable farms:
  - Good nutrition is essential for development of an effective immune system
  - Ideally source from BVD free farms
- **Housing**
  - Ensure stocking density is suitable: use AHDB guide to calculate density:  
<https://ahdb.org.uk/strawyards#:~:text=The%20space%20allowance%20required%20for,m2%20is%20recommended>
  - Check ventilation
    - Set off two smoke pellets in different places in the building on a still day - the smoke should travel up and out of the outlets, ideally being clear enough to see through within 30 seconds
    - Calculate ventilation rate using AHDB ventilation calculator
    - Monitor build up of dust and cobwebs
    - Can increase inlets/outlets using changes to boarding, opening doors or having removable sheeting depending on conditions
    - Can increase flow with fan or PPAT tube systems
  - Use a humidity meter – relative humidity shouldn't be more than 75%
  - Draughts – measure air speed at animal level, for animals <300kg an airspeed of over 2m/s in winter will affect growth rates and immune systems
  - If using stack effect ventilation, checked if the area of the inlets and outlets is enough using the AHDB ventilation calculator
  - Bedding – should be sufficient clean and dry bedding, which can be checked by dropping to your knees, where your knees should stay dry and it shouldn't hurt to drop
  - Monitor airspace mixing – ideally avoid sharing airspace's across age groups, but where this isn't possible, use smoke pellets to determine airflow and place the most vulnerable groups 'upwind'
- **Movement management**
  - Minimise changes that cause stress, for example don't change ration at the same time as changing housing
- **Isolation**
  - Isolate for a minimum of 21 days, in a separate airspace all new stock **or** stock that have left the farm and returned – this includes not being upwind of the other stock
  - Additionally vaccinate show cattle to reduce risk of bringing in disease on return – see below for respiratory disease recommendations

If you need a vaccination programme to get ahead of pneumonia this winter, please speak to your local branch.

## Traumatic injury and slaughter on farm

We've recently spoken to a few farmers who weren't aware of emergency slaughter options. If an animal is injured on farm in a way that prevents it being transported for slaughter, most commonly a broken leg, it can be slaughtered on farm with an emergency slaughter certificate. **You MUST have a vet visit BEFORE killing the animal!** An abattoir that can receive the animal within 2hrs of slaughter is also required.