



## What makes a Poultry Practice a success?

**A TEAM is the answer!** We are all one team, one vision. The PHS team is made up of individuals with different training, credentialing, backgrounds, personalities, qualities, and skills that all contribute to the success of the Practice. Each member is a crucial part of the team and brings their special talent to the table. In our team, everyone makes the coffee! Over the next few months, we will introduce you to the non-vet members of PHS. Our team member this month is Meaka Williams.

## Team Member of the Month: Meaka Williams

Meaka started at the original PHS Practice in Dalton (Thirsk) in January 2013. Meaka has a Science degree which has given her an in-depth understanding of the tests performed in the laboratory, and alongside assisting with these she is also responsible for the poultry assurance schemes and flock programmes on Digiflock, coordinating and preparing all the weekly exports and testing that we perform for different clients. Meaka is also responsible for the communications portfolio which includes a monthly newsletter to clients and daily communications on social media. In her private life, Meaka is very busy looking after her three and two year old daughters and her little dog Lola.



## Disposal of drug packaging, are you compliant?

Red tractor audits have resulted in a number of non-compliances on farms due to incorrect disposal of medicine packages. They require that medicine containers are “disposed of in line with manufacturers' advice, or via a veterinary practice, or business with the relevant waste transfer licence”. Poultry Health Services can supply appropriate containers that would be compliant with the requirements of Red Tractor.



Please contact the Practice for prices of different sizes of container.

## PHS-training the poultry vets of the future:

At PHS we are keen to educate the next generation of vets about the poultry industry and offer placements to vet students for them to see first hand the varied work that poultry vets typically undertake. Summer is our busiest time for students, and you may see some of them assisting the vet when you bring birds in for PM or accompanying vets on farm visits. We hope that you enjoy meeting them, and we will encourage them to ask you questions, so that they can learn about the poultry industry.

## Disease Update

As we move from spring into summer, the temperatures are rising and we are seeing some common diseases across the country.

In layers, red mite issues are predominating. Paler eggs have been seen on some farms, sometimes associated with IB challenges. We are seeing IB challenges stretching across the country affecting all types of unit – colony, barn and free range.

Seasonal turkeys will soon be hitting the ground. The first 10 days of a poult's life are critical and we offer pre-placement visits to ensure the environmental conditions are optimised.

With broilers, much like the layers, IB continues to be an issue, with different variants being seen. On farm, we see IB causing poor growth, or secondary bacterial infections that result in mortality.

Game season is upon us, and issues commonly seen at the start of the season are with chick mortality. Common causes are yolk sac infection or dehydration (especially in extremes of heat). We recommend a post mortem if you have high mortality in the first few days of the chicks' life, so the vet can diagnose the problem and prescribe accordingly.

## Red Mite Control:

A topic we always discuss with our layer clients is red mite control. Red mites are blood sucking parasites, which in low numbers irritate and stress the bird, but in high numbers can cause anaemia and significant drops in production. Red mites thrive in dark, warm places. The best place to look is under the nest box lid. As temperatures rise, red mite populations rapidly increase. It is important to regularly monitor red mite levels, and use treatment to keep the numbers as low as possible.

There are lots of treatments available on the market. Two products we recommend are Exzolt and Harmonix.

Exzolt is the only licenced veterinary medicine product that can be used to treat the birds through the water, to kill the red mites and stop their reproductive cycle.

The alternative to treating the bird is to treat the environment. Harmonix is a natural product made of alcohol and cellulose, that acts to immobilise mites and damage their cuticle. This product can be used on Lion Code farms as it is not a biocide.

If you use other products and are a Lion Code producer, check that the product you are using is on the BEIC insecticide/acaricide list.

## Social Media: Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn



Come and give us a follow for the latest news from the Poultry Industry,

current events, seasonal offers and interesting photos from a typical day in a Poultry practice.

Follow this week to take part in our 'Match the baby photos' game and win a bottle of wine!

## Reduce the negative effects of heat stress this summer

In addition to the electrovits and hydrovits that have been traditionally recommended for the treatment of heat stress, there are now a range of products available that have shown beneficial effects in terms of resilience to disease at times of heat stress and also a beneficial effect in maintaining body weights and egg production. These include a range of products containing Betaine, Essential oils and amino acids.

To discuss which product is more cost effective for your particular circumstances, please contact any of the poultry vets on the numbers below.



Hereford - 01981 241320 Leominster - 01568 610343 Sutton Bonington - 01159 516551  
Barton - 01772 428357 Shrewsbury- 01829 740216 Tarvin- 01829 740216 Beeford - 01262 488323  
Sheriff Hutton - 01347 820366 Edinburgh- 0131 4456020

[www.poultryhealthservices.com](http://www.poultryhealthservices.com)