



Title: Welcome to Farm Vet Champions

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- It's my great pleasure to welcome you to the Farm Vet Champions. This collaborative project spearheaded by RCVS Knowledge. Welcome to Farm Vet Champions. I'm sure that like me, you're incredibly proud of the fantastic progress we've made in the UK over the last five years as we've demonstrated a 45% reduction in anti-microbial use in livestock agriculture. Really impressive on a national scale though I have to say largely evidenced by dramatic reductions in usage in primarily pig, poultry, fish units. Limiting the build-up of anti-microbial resistance is essential for both human and animal health.

Whether it's a member of my family going into hospital for a routine operation or my farming neighbour faced with a sick calf, I want to know that we can access effective antibiotics when necessary. And every single one of us has our part to play in using our resources responsibly. And I know that you, as a farm vet you face a myriad of practical issues on a daily basis. We want this Farm Vet Champions resource to resonate with you and your clients at the precise point of every decision you make on farm that is consultation by consultation. So let's just zoom in for a minute into your practise to yourself as you jump out of your car tomorrow morning on a dairy farm or outside of lambing shed, how proud do you really feel of your personal contribution to the impressive headlines? Are you honestly a little frustrated by the lack of progress amongst some of your farmers or your colleagues? If that's you, then I'm with you. I often struggle with a reality that feels like hard work and a bit muddy.

Farm Vet Champions is very definitely not simply about what antibiotic to use and how we reduce usage. Our mission is much more holistic and fundamental and we have this simple mantra, plan, prevent and protect. So together, can we help farmers to plan ahead with their vet to ensure that their animals diet is ideal, the animals are fit and healthy. A plan that accounts for unexpected, a plan that provides for contingencies, a plan that's dynamic, acting on bear records responding to their careful monitoring and measuring. Can we prevent unnecessary disease challenge by ensuring appropriate living conditions, good shelter clean dry bedding, suitable ventilation, meticulous hygiene, suitable functional equipment. And can we protect the herd or the flock by establishing appropriate vaccination regimes? Can we protect the neonatal costs, lambs, piglets by ensuring the sufficient quantity of quality colostrum that's given as quickly as possible. We believe that we can do all these things but that we need to work together. We need to encourage and support each other. We need to learn from each other, to update training in good practise and essential skills. And that is where Farm Vet Champions come in.

We are deliberately ensuring that every item of CPD is a very high quality. It's delivered by real experts and directly applicable for you with clear and practical take home messages. There are nuggets of information that you can immediately act on when you're speaking with your farmers over the next few days and weeks. And as you work through the various modules we suggest you

start with the introduction to medicines module, but please, as you work through those modules, please do keep in touch with us. We'd love it if you'd let us know how you're getting on. We want to learn from you and with you as together we all access this free training and share our experiences. So before you start and I know you're desperate to get in there and do the training, please be speaking with your friends and colleagues, encourage them to also sign up. And as you shout about Farm Vet Champions on social media please do tag us in and use a hashtag and we respond. Together, we can make a difference and we're really excited that you're with us.

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