



**FarmVets**  
S O U T H W E S T



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## Newsletter February 2017

### Chronic Pneumonia: Spotting, Treating, Preventing

We are seeing increasing numbers of **chronic pneumonia** cases in cattle. If you have calves that seem to respond poorly to first line pneumonia treatment, or have clinical cases that keep recurring - call us. **FarmVets SouthWest can help you minimise losses from chronic pneumonia on your farm.** This disease can be challenging to diagnose, and veterinary examination is essential to be sure. **In some circumstances the vet may even scan your animal's lungs** to identify any abscesses that may be present, as well as scarring in the lungs, which is indicative of chronic pneumonia. Cattle with chronic pneumonia may be of any age and typically respond to antibiotics for a short while before relapsing.



In an attempt to treat these animals we advise a prolonged course of antibiotics to treat any abscesses residing in the lung tissue, **typically, we prescribe Betamox LA every other day for a month.** Chronic pneumonia can arise from improper or delayed treatment of acute pneumonia, particularly in severe cases. *'Improper'* treatment of acute pneumonia is more common than originally thought, FarmVets SouthWest can create pneumonia treatment protocols for your farm to ensure you are using the right drug, at the right dose and at the right time.

### FarmVets SouthWest invites our Dairy Clients to an Evening Meeting

**Thursday 16th February 2017 (prompt start at 7pm)**  
**Sedgemoor Auction Centre**

**"Would you like to get more milk from grass this grazing season?"**

**Come along to our talk on improving grazing management for your dairy herd and maximising productivity from your fields - there's still time to book your place.**

Free bar and hot meal served at the end of the meeting.

**Please contact any of our offices to reserve your place as soon as possible.**

### Tip of the month

**Don't use last year's rubber rings!**

The rubber in the rings will degrade at a surprising rate and may no longer be as effective.  
Use new rings each year to avoid complications further down the line.

## Preparing your ewes for lambing

Once again many of you will be fast approaching your busy lambing period. As well as ensuring you have all your essential equipment to hand (see below) there are just a few things you might need to consider **before it's too late**.



Many ewes will be due a booster vaccination of Heptavac-P in order to protect them from Clostridial diseases and Pasteurella over the coming year. **Remember Heptavac-P boosters MUST be given four weeks before the ewes are due to start lambing** in order to give the lambs protection via the colostrum for the first four weeks of life. **Call now to ensure we have the doses you require in stock**.

As well as ensuring your vaccinations are up to date, you **need to consider your current worming protocol**. Suppressed worm immunity during late pregnancy will result in dormant, immature worms developing into adults - this is what we term a periparturient rise. **Dosing is often required at the time of lambing in order to prevent high worm burdens and a sharp rise in eggs being shed**. As well as reducing your ewe's milk yield, a heavily contaminated pasture will increase the challenge faced by your vulnerable lambs. **For any advice on worming your sheep speak to a member of the FVSW team**.

## Don't get caught out - buy your lambing supplies in time

FVSW stock all the essential kit for the lambing period:

- **Lube** – and lots of it!!!
- **Thermometer** – identify hypothermia in lambs early
- **Gloves** – hygiene is important
- **Metacam** – an essential anti-inflammatory used for any difficult lambings
- **Calcium** – CMD 6 for hypocalcaemia/twin lamb disease
- **Ketosaid** – for ewes with twin lamb disease
- **A first line antibiotic for hard lambings**
- **Strong iodine** – to dip lamb navels and reduce to risk of infection
- **Rubber rings**



## An emerging disease?

**Have you seen this lesion on any of your cow's udders?** It is found in the udder cleft at the front of the udder, usually on high yielding cows (which have bigger/more stocked udders). The VLA have seen 5 dead cows from 4 farms recently with this issue, including one from a FVSW farm. The lesion begins and looks like Digital Dermatitis, (the DD bacteria may be implicated in this disease and the spread may be from the feet).



As the lesion gets worse it progresses to a deep infection/abscess where infection can then spread around the cow, usually to the lungs, resulting in death. Prevention is definitely better than cure. Keep the udder cleft clean and dry, reduce faecal contamination and take steps to reduce digital dermatitis infection levels within your herd.

*Speak to us if you have this on farm and need more advice.*