

## Newsletter November 2017

Youngstock **4**life

**Youngstock Roadshow:**  
A summary of the meeting

**New look  
Newsletter!**

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October the FarmVets SouthWest/Origin Animal Youngstock Roadshow was held at Sedgemoor Auction Centre with multiple speakers detailing best practice in youngstock rearing and outlining topical issues for the present and future of youngstock rearing. For those of you that couldn't make it (and a recap for those that did), vet Cormac highlights the main "take home" messages from the evening;

- **Clean calving environment** reduce occurrence of diseases such as mastitis, navel ill, coccidiosis, cryptosporidiosis, rotavirus, coronavirus and E.coli.
- Colostrum is the essential energy rich first milk that contains all important Ig (Immunoglobulins) that are responsible for the transfer of immunity to disease to the calf from the dam.
- Feeding of high quality colostrum of sufficient quantity leads to benefits such as; increased live weight gain, increased yield in first and second lactation and reduced veterinary costs per calf!
- **2 x 3litre feeds of colostrum with greater than 50g/l Ig should be fed to calves in the first 12 hours.**
- Colostrum quality can be measured using a colostrometer or a brix refractometer - genetics, dam's health, dry period, timing of feeding, method of feeding and storage of colostrum can all affect quality of colostrum and its absorption by the calf.
- **Colostrum can be refrigerated for up to 7 days and can also be frozen to be thawed for later use** (though some care must be taken when doing this). Dried Colostrum replacements are also available such as Calf's Choice Total.
- Paul Williams, Technical Veterinary Advisor at MSD, **highlighted the importance of vaccination in preventing calf scour and pneumonia outbreaks** whilst noting that vaccines are not a magic solution and that hygiene and housing still play a key role (if there are enough bugs in the environment no vaccination will be strong enough to protect a calf).
- Dr Tim Potter, Veterinary Youngstock expert spoke about medicine use in calves and **highlighted the importance of finding ways to reduce our use of antibiotics on farm.**



The meeting highlighted the importance of preventing disease before it becomes a major issue on farm. Whilst planning isn't something many of us enjoy, it is a vital part of farming. **With winter weather on its way and disease pressures set to rise, when was the last time you reviewed your calf protocols?**

### Book your winter TB Tests Today!



FarmVets SouthWest would like to encourage all clients with TB tests planned over the winter (XL or privately arranged pre-movement tests) to **book well in advance to avoid disappointment.**

The next few months are often very busy for the practice, especially with the Bank Holidays around Christmas and New Year. It can sometimes be difficult to fit in all the TB tests on the day and at a time you'd like unless booked as soon as possible - **November is already fairly booked up!**

## Fog Fever - Pneumonia lurking in your grass?

Fog Fever is a misleading name for a relatively well known condition; **its pathogenesis is completely unrelated to fog and it doesn't produce a fever!** Perhaps more accurately termed acute bovine pulmonary emphysema (ABPE), fog fever is an acute and often fatal cause of pneumonia in adult cattle. It occurs 4 to 10 days after moving to a fresh, lush pasture. Affected individuals will present in severe respiratory distress, open mouth breathing, frothing and will often be separated from the rest of the herd. **These clinical signs are caused by a toxin called 3-methylindole that is formed in the metabolism of L, tryptophan which is present at high levels in lush forage** (rape, kale, turnips tops and many grasses).

In extreme cases where cattle have been found dead or have been euthanased, the lungs appear heavy and will not collapse normally on post-mortem inspection. Large air-filled bullae can sometimes be seen, highlighting the damage 3-methylindole can cause. **This lung damage can also cause subcutaneous emphysema** where air collects under the skin producing a 'bubble-wrap' like texture to the touch.

Severely affected animals will have so little functional lung left that driving, handling or stressing them in any way can cause them to collapse. Having said that, **the only real treatment is to remove cattle from the offending pasture.**

Where this isn't possible the diet should be supplemented with a generous quantity of good quality hay.

**We will often administer a steroid (such as Dexadreson) for its potent anti-inflammatory affects to assist in the recovery of normal respiratory function.** In severe cases we may even consider administering an antibiotic to prevent secondary bacterial infection.



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£15  
per 2x 500ml pack

**EPRINEX®**  
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per 1L pack

**LOCATIM®**  
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per 60ml pack

**EPRINEX®**  
Pour-on  
£30  
per 2.5L pack

**IVOMEC® Super**  
£20  
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**IVOMEC® SUPER**  
Adapted for Cattle

**LOCATIM®**

**AUTUMN 2017**  
Purchase period:  
1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

**If any of these products are part of your farms planned worming strategy, why not take advantage of this cashback offer?**

**MERIAL**  
Merial is now part of Schering-Plough

## How well ventilated are YOUR buildings?

**Sufficient building ventilation is a central component to the health of all our housed livestock.** On the whole, the more ventilation the better (though too much can cause a drop in environmental temperatures). As we have discussed before, ventilation is particularly important in preventing pneumonia in calves.

By letting off a controlled smoke bomb we can assess your buildings ventilation by seeing how long the smoke takes to clear. **Call your nearest branch today to assess YOUR buildings and help prevent pneumonia.**



## Your local farm veterinary service

### North Petherton

Unit 8 Sedgemoor Auction Centre  
Market Way North Petherton  
Somerset, TA6 6DF  
t: 01278 663399

### Yarcombe

Stopgate Cross  
Yarcombe, Honiton  
Devon, EX14 9NB  
t: 01404 861214

### Ilminster

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Dowlish Ford, Ilminster  
Somerset, TA19 0PF  
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