



FarmVets
S O U T H W E S T



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Newsletter April 2016

FarmVets SouthWest can reduce Ketosis on your Farm

Our **Nutrition Consultancy Service** will **reduce Ketosis** on your farm. Correct management of the diet is important at all stages of production, but in particular in the dry and transition periods.

Ketosis has countless negative and costly effects – **prevention is key** and can be achieved by our consulting with our vets on the following areas:



- **Nutrition** - Improving the transition period through altering the dry cow ration, the length of the dry period, and preventing cows becoming too fat towards end of lactation.
- **Heifer management** health plans - ensuring heifers do not calve down for the first time over 27 months of age.
- **Kexxtone** – an intra-ruminal bolus given to **high risk animals** 3-4 weeks prior to calving. It continuously releases monensin for 95 days, thus covering the risk period of ketosis. Monensin shifts the microbial balance in the rumen, increasing the energy available to the cow and narrowing the “energy gap”.
- Regular Silage Sampling and analysis by our vets using our **silage core sampler**

David Taylor holds a Diploma in Ruminant Nutrition, making him an expert in this field. Using our **dietcheck ration formulations**, David will assess and formulate rations specific to your cows, your management systems and your current silage analysis.

Want to reduce ketosis? Call us to speak to any of our vets on our

FarmVets SouthWest invites you to an evening meeting

Wednesday, 4th May 2016 at 7pm
Sedgemoor Auction Centre

Efficient Farming: **“How to make your Dairy Herd more profitable”**

Our meeting will focus on changes you can make to herd management that can save you money, improve cattle health and increase profits.

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.

Looking back to move forward: Ewe abortions

With lambing well underway or already completed, **now** is the time to **review the flock's reproductive performance with us** in order to improve, if necessary, next year.

One area to look at is **barren and aborted ewes**. Most information about causes of abortion is gained from immediately submitting the aborted lambs and placentas for post mortem. However this task can be overtaken by the general "rush" of lambing. Equally, ewes may not be seen to be empty until the end of lambing. Fortunately, **blood sampling** aborted or barren ewes for antibodies against certain causes of abortion (e.g. *Enzootic abortion*, *Toxoplasma*) can help support a diagnosis of these diseases. Given that **effective vaccines** against these causes of abortion exist (**Enzovax** and **Toxovax** respectively), knowing that they are present on farm allows **controls to be put in place before tupping**.



Barren rates greater than 5%, or abortion rates greater than 2% , are causes for concern: speak to our vets today. We are especially happy to be able to offer the **FlockCheck** scheme (courtesy of MSD), which offers **subsidised blood tests for enzootic abortion and toxoplasma** to flocks of over 100 ewes which do not currently vaccinate against these diseases.

Use our Tests to Target Scour Control on Farm

Using the **ScourCheck Rapid**, we can **identify the cause** of scour and decide on the **best way to treat** and manage it, **instantly on farm!** With a 10-minute turnaround, for just £19.50 + VAT, our vets can use the ScourCheck Rapid kit on farm to identify four of the major infectious causes of scour (*E. coli*, *Rotavirus*, *Coronavirus* and *Cryptosporidium*) and how to treat them. If required, further samples can be submitted to diagnose other infectious agents such as coccidiosis or bacteria which require different treatments.

FarmVets SouthWest stock a range of drugs to specifically treat or prevent each cause of scour (**RotavecCorona**, **Halocur**, **Vecoxan**). Mis-diagnosis and incorrect drug choice leads to treatment failure, calf mortality and growth stunting. **Treatment should always be specific to the cause.** *Ask our vets to use ScourCheck Rapid when on farm.*



Control Nematodirus to reduce lamb deaths

FarmVets SouthWest stock Endospec - an effective treatment for Nematodirus - one of the biggest causes of death and scour in lambs this time of year. The UK has already had its first diagnosed case of death by Nematodirus. Keep ahead of the problem by checking the live forecast published on SCOPS website: www.scops.org.uk/nematodirus-forecast.html. Talk to a vet today about how to safeguard your flock and when to treat.



Prevent Staggers with Rumbul bolus

Now is the time to use **Rumbul bolus** to help prevent grass staggers in cattle and sheep - these are available from us at a **reduced price**.



May Bank Holiday Opening Hours

Our offices will be shut on Bank Holiday Monday 2nd & 30th May. Drugs can be collected from our Sedgemoor Office **by appointment only**.

