FarmVets SOUTHWEST

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Newsletter December 2012

FarmVets SouthWest invites you to an evening meeting on:

Calf Health

At Sedgemoor Auction Centre
Wednesday, 12th December 7.00pm for 7.30pm Start

We are very pleased to introduce our speaker
Dai Grove-White, BVSc DBR FRCVS
from the University of Liverpool

Dai is a recognised veterinary expert in the field of
calf health and an excellent speaker.
Make sure you don't miss this unique opportunity to
attend what is guaranteed to be an excellent meeting

Free bar & hot meal served at the end of the meeting
Please contact any of our offices to **reserve your place** as soon as
possible.

We are back in stock!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OFFICE OPENING HOURS

Our offices are open as normal over the Christmas period except for the following:
Christmas Eve: Close at 3 pm
Christmas Day: Closed
Boxing Day: Closed
New Year's Day: Closed

Don't forget to order and collect medicines in good time

Preventing £250-300 pneumonia loss in dairy heifer calves

(supported by Pfizer Ltd)

Calf with pneumonia

Heifer calves treated for a respiratory infection before weaning have been found to produce 4% less milk in their first lactation, and up to 8% less in the second, compared with uninfected animals in the same herd—that's according to Dr Steven Morrison from the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland, who has calculated the combined loss to be £247 per head.

Speaking at an international veterinary symposium staged by Pfizer Animal Health, he also reported a £297 per head milk yield penalty over the first two lactations in animals that had recurrent pneumonia during the rearing period, compared with uninfected animals of similar genetic merit kept under the same management conditions.

When treating pneumonia, vet George Caldow from SAC Veterinary Services speaking at the same event said that recovery was rarely complete within one week. In uncomplicated cases, he recommended a minimum four days of antibiotic therapy to prevent bacterial colonisation during recovery, while in severe cases he said the healing process may take several weeks.

For pre-weaning protection of dairy heifer calves and minimisation of the consequent losses identified by Steven Morrison's research, Pfizer vet Kate Ingram recommends the use of Rispoval Intranasal, a single dose vaccine, licensed for use from nine days of age, which protects against the respiratory viruses RSV and P13V which commonly affect very young calves.

She adds that other essential measures to protect calf health include a feed of at least three litres of good quality colostrum within six hours of birth, clean and dry bedding, and well ventilated, well drained housing.

ON OUR ROUNDS...

Phil Kenward

On one of my calls this month I came across a cow that was literally walking on three legs. The animal had been trimmed numerous times for toe necrosis by the farmer and also a foot trimmer. The front of the claw had been infected, possibly by the bacteria that causes digital dermatitis. Most likely a toe ulcer or a sand crack was the initial problem. The damage done by the infection was irreversible and the farmer and I agreed that a claw amputation was the only option left to resolve the problem. Carefully selected cases for amputation can improve dramatically after amputation, as was the case with this animal, as it walked out of the crush on all four legs after I had performed surgery. I think there is an obvious cost benefit for claw amputations. Instead of on farm disposal, after successful amputation, the animal can go for slaughter as a barrener or even carry on milking if it is a dairy cow, sometimes even for a few more lactations.

Foot after amputation

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