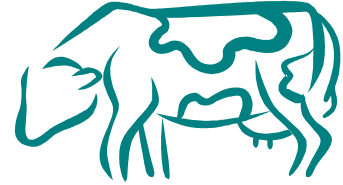


# FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



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## Newsletter February 2014



### BVD



**FarmVets SouthWest invites you to an evening meeting:**

BVD is a very damaging disease and can be a huge cost on your farm without showing obvious signs. Our talk will cover the **costs** of BVD to your herd, how to **test and eradicate** it from your herd, how to **protect your herd** from future infections, and how to continue **monitoring** your herd's BVD status.

The meeting will be held at  
**Sedgemoor Auction Centre**  
**Wednesday, 12th February 7.15pm**  
**Free bar & hot meal**

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

### Lepto Vaccine Deal

Spring turn out is the time of the highest transmission of Leptospirosis. The bug is passed in the cow's urine and symptoms include abortion, milk drop and "flabby bag". Leptospirosis can be transmitted to humans from cow's urine and causes flu like symptoms (and occasionally death). As always, our vaccine (Spirovac) is very well priced and is on offer through January, February and March - so get yourself a deal.



### Quick fix for foot-rot



Foot-rot can be controlled by foot bathing and/or vaccinating. However, another approach is to blanket treat the flock with Micotil injection. As this antibiotic lasts longer in the sheep than the bug lasts in the environment it can heavily reduce foot rot levels for up to a year without the need for time consuming foot baths. The key is to inject all sheep at the same time. Although Micotil is vet only, a visit to inject your flock can still be very cost effective.

## Orf infection in sheep and lambs

Orf is a common infection in sheep throughout the UK, affecting **any age or breed**. The infection can occur all year round but is a particular problem around lambing time.

Typically, animals will develop **scabby lesions** around the **mouth and nose**, but can also be affected on the **legs, and udders**. Suckling lambs are especially at risk of becoming infected from these lesions on the ewe.



Orf is a virus that infects the body through **cuts and grazes** in the skin. These can be as small as a scratch caused by rough feed. Once established, the virus multiplies in the skin producing these **painful lesions**.

### Problems caused by Orf

The scabby lesions produced by Orf are very painful. This results in lambs with painful mouths which **don't want to feed** and ewes with painful udders which don't allow the lamb to suckle. The overall result is **hungry, undernourished lambs**, which will need additional feeding to survive. These lambs may attempt to feed off other, less painful, ewes but this only **spreads the virus** to more udders making the problem worse.



Infection of the udders can also lead to **mastitis**, resulting in sick ewes, treatment costs, and potential loss of the affected halves. Orf is also **zoonotic** which means the infection can spread to humans producing similarly painful lesions. Wear gloves where possible and always wash your hands!

### Treating Orf



Orf is a virus so antibiotics won't cure the infection. The majority of cases clear up on their own within a month, however many get **secondary bacterial infections**. These infections can be effectively treated with **Terramycin Spray**.

If Orf has affected your flock, there are measures you can take to help **prevent** it being a problem the following year. These include **cleaning and disinfecting** (to prevent the infectious scabs dropped this year from causing re-infection next year) and also **vaccinating** with **Scabivax Forte**.

This vaccine should only be used on flocks that have already suffered an Orf problem. For more details on when and how to use the vaccine, speak to

## Ewe Abortions

Are you losing too many lambs before birth? If you have above 2% of ewes aborting, above 2% barren at scanning or you have more than 4 ewes aborting in any one week you should be investigating the cause. Enzootic abortion or toxoplasmosis is responsible for 3 out of 4 cases of infectious abortions. Barren ewes/aborted ewes can be blood sampled for these diseases. Thankfully lab fees are heavily subsidised. Speak to us about the "barren-ewe check" or "flock check".

