



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

[www.thefarmvets.co.uk](http://www.thefarmvets.co.uk)

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

5, Larchfield Industrial Estate  
Dowlsh Ford, Ilminster  
Somerset TA19 0PF  
t:01460 55004

## Newsletter January 2014

### Winter Calf Meeting

Our Winter meeting at the market in North Petherton was a great success. 100 or so of our clients managed to fight their way through the dreadful weather to attend the meeting. They were rewarded with a very entertaining talk about increasing profit from young stock rearing and a bit more besides. Our speaker, Jamie Robertson, has spent most of his professional career establishing the needs of farm animals in modern day farming and shared some of his knowledge with us. Repeating his whole talk will prove difficult so listed below are the topics he touched on. Please feel free to call us for more information if you are interested.

- Drainage: As high humidity levels cause animals to lose their heat, attention should always be paid to ensure that drains are functioning.
- Building materials: Do you really need massive concrete panels to keep baby calves in a building? Consider using materials with better thermal properties. (e.g. stock board)
- Fresh air: Replacing old stale air in a shed requires an appropriate inlet and outlet.
- Airspeed: Drafts should be avoided at all times - make sure gates are sheeted where necessary and consider blocking the space underneath a gate with old conveyer belt.
- Calf coats: If, after all your best efforts your calves still appear to be cold, using calf coats could be a good solution.



Thanks to everyone who attended, we hope you enjoyed the evening.

### Defra announce "Zero Tolerance" TB



Defra have stated that from 1st January 2014 there will be Zero Tolerance on overdue tests. The tests must be done, and must be seen to be booked in to be done, before your window closes, otherwise farmers will be financially penalised via reduction in their Single Farm Payment. We want to help - we can help. We have enough staff to get all your tests done - we just need advance warning to get the tests booked in. Don't leave it until the last moment (i.e. the last week of your window) - we cannot be in two places at once.

## Rob's Retirement

This addition to the newsletter is something I was hoping not to have to write for at least another year or so. On medical advice, I will be retiring at the beginning of March. My left arm is no longer able to bear the stress and strain of farm animal veterinary work - and if I don't stop now I am increasing the chances of requiring a new elbow joint.

I have been very pleased to be associated with FarmVets since its beginning in 2008 and know that I leave the practice in the very best of hands.



## Reminder—IBR vaccine boosters

The licence for Bovilis IBR is 6 months for boosters. If you booster your cattle past the six month date please be aware that there is no guarantee that cover will be in place.



### Find us on Facebook.....

Have a look at our new Facebook page and "like" us. We will be updating our page regularly and would welcome any comments or feedback you may have (polite as possible please!)

## Calf Coats

Calf coats are an excellent way of ensuring your valuable young calves stay warm in cold weather. Mind you this could be the case anywhere between October and April depending on the weather conditions, humidity and the properties of your calf housing. To make it simple, when you feel the need to wear a coat, your calves might benefit from one! We are now offering high quality calf coats which are breathable and water repellent. They are durable, long lasting, washable and easy to use. During our winter meeting Jamie Robertson presented some research which showed the benefits of using them.



The coats are £25 each and will definitely pay for themselves by giving you healthier calves and higher growth rates. Call any of our branches to place your order.

## Marbocyl > Marbox Ceftiocyl > Cevaxel RTU



Unfortunately Vetoquinol, the same company who make Kefloril, also make Marbocyl and Ceftiocyl. We believe the price rises they are forcing on us are unreasonable and therefore we have changed suppliers in order to keep the farm gate price the same.



The identical CEVA products are MARBOX and CEVAXEL RTU. The only difference is in MARBOX - when given intra-muscularly the milk withdrawal period is 72 hours but when given sub-cutaneously the milk withdrawal is 36 hours.

**The Directors and Staff of FarmVets SouthWest wish you a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2014.**