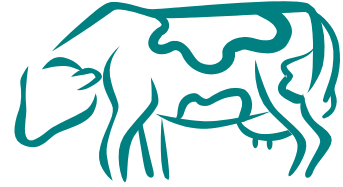


FarmVets

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Newsletter July 2016

Bluetongue Virus : Are you informed? Are you prepared?

Bluetongue virus type 8 re-emerged in central France earlier this year. APHA believes that there is an 80% chance that BTV-8 will arrive in Britain by September.

Know the clinical signs: Bluetongue is most severe in sheep, but cattle and goats can also be affected. It poses no danger to humans. Signs in sheep include fever, swelling of the lips and head, erosions within the mouth, difficulty eating, drooling, nasal discharge, lameness, weakness, difficulty breathing and death. Clinical signs are rarer in cattle; fever, erosions in the mouth, nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, teat lesions, and lower limb swelling are features. Abortion may occur, death is rarer than in sheep. Bluetongue is a notifiable disease - if you suspect you have a case you must **notify the ministry**. If you are unsure call us out to inspect the animal(s).



Know your risk level: BTV is spread by biting midges; permanently housed animals are at a lower risk, while those grazing marshy areas where midges are common have a greater risk of infection.

Be prepared: BTV-8 vaccines for both cattle and sheep are available, but these must be pre-ordered and stocks are limited. The vaccine course is two injections, 3 weeks apart. If you would like to discuss vaccination or order vaccine, please contact the practice. If you do not vaccinate you should consider what preventative measures you could take should BTV-8 reach our area. Contact the practice to discuss what measures are applicable on your farm.

Stay informed: the forecast risk from BTV-8 is regularly updated. The forecast can be found on this link: <http://www.nfuonline.com/news/latest-news/bluetongue-what-you-need-to-know/#currentsit> - but we will also keep you updated monthly on the Bluetongue situation through our newsletter.

For more information, come along to the JAB (Joint Action against Bluetongue) meeting at Sedgemoor Auction Centre, July 13th at 6.30pm

Fortify your flock - Quarantine counts

Bought-in sheep can introduce a large range of diseases and parasites to your farm, including enzootic abortion, CODD, sheep scab, wormer-resistant worms and triclabendazole-resistant liver fluke. Fortunately, a good quarantine protocol can help reduce the risks.

Protect your flock - contact the practice (**before** bringing sheep home) to develop a quarantine protocol.



How FarmVets SouthWest can help control lungworm

Even a small lungworm burden within your herd can impact cattle health and productivity. Outbreaks amongst growing stock are often unpredictable and can result in losses of up to £100 per animal. FarmVets SouthWest can help devise a strategy to control lungworm.

Dictyocaulus viviparus, the cattle lungworm, can infect all ages but younger, first time grazers will be at highest risk, as older cattle develop some degree of resistance provided they have sufficient exposure. The most characteristic clinical sign is coughing throughout the group, especially after exercise. Lungworm can be diagnosed at the practice by a Baermann's assay. Currently most wormer classes will be effective for treating lungworm outbreaks. However, using wormers as a continuous blanket prevention prevents worm exposure. Without exposure, cattle do not develop immunity and so remain susceptible to future lungworm infections.

Prevention of the disease can be achieved with *Bovilis Huskvac*. Timings of vaccine is critical to ensure adequate protection. Speak to one of our vets to optimise its use.



Mapping the cost of Johne's disease on your farm

FarmVets SouthWest can help control Johne's in your herd and save you money from this costly disease. Johne's is a chronic disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis* (Map). It causes weight loss, diarrhoea and wasting in adult cattle. It is transmitted by the faecal-oral route and many of the control measures we advise are focussed on minimising spread as there is no effective treatment. As much of 50% of herds may be infected by Johne's.

Advice on Johne's disease is typically focussed on dairy herds, but it is also present in many beef herds and could be causing weight loss, decreased fertility and increased culling in your beef unit. Current estimates suggest that Johne's may cost £1,600 to a cow suckler herd but in a severely infected herd costs may run considerably higher.

FarmVets SouthWest can carry out routine testing to aid identification of infected animals, and subsequent removal of these animals leads to decreased infection pressure on farm. Biosecurity and hygiene are imperative for tackling Johne's! We have several vets who are accredited Johne's advisors - speak to us for targeted advice on controlling Johne's disease on your unit - whether dairy or beef.



Chedhunt Holsteins Open Evening & South West Holsteins Herd Competition Results

will be held on
Wednesday, 13th July at 7pm at
Fowlers Plot Farm, Chedzoy,
Bridgwater TA7 8RQ.

Honiton Show

We look forward to seeing you
at Stand 130 Avenue B on
Thursday, August 4th.

**Please be aware that the Yarcombe
office will not be open until 11:00 a.m
on 4th August.**