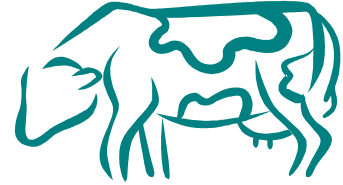


FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



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Newsletter March 2013

FarmVets now offer Silage Analysis

This year's silage is very variable with extremes being quite common (either bone dry or sopping wet). Milk yield problems are common but are by no means universal this winter and so it is particularly important this year to sample silage regularly and correctly so that enough concentrates are fed to promote good yields and health without over feeding them and running into large feed bills and acidosis.



FarmVets SouthWest is now in a position to offer a silage sampling service using a drill powered



coring machine. The advantages of using the corer is that silage can be sampled properly (i.e. 9-15 samples taken in a "W" pattern across the feed face from 6" deep into the face of the pit. This is very difficult to do by hand if a shear grab is used and can lead to less thorough methods of sampling and unreliable results.

The lab charges £12.00+VAT for a basic analysis - but remember that any silage fed to dry cows should have a full mineral analysis to help avoid milk fever. If you would like a silage sample taken please contact us and we can fit it in with another visit if possible (e.g. routine fertility visit).

We have seen silage in one pit vary from 40% dry matter to 32% dry matter which has had a knock on effect on cow health and performance. Samples should be taken on a monthly basis at the very least for smaller herds and fortnightly for larger herds.

PET FOOD!!!

We are regularly asked to supply your pet food and up until now we have resisted....we are now able to take pet food orders for you to collect at your convenience. Just call any of the offices, let us know your specific requirements and we will try and source it from our wholesalers. **As usual we will be very competitive on price.....**





COPPER

As turnout approaches many will be considering copper supplementation for their herd. We now supply Copper boluses - Copper 24/7 - an alternative to the discontinued Copprite. We also supply injectable copper. Excellent deals are now available - speak to Rob, Art, Mike Price or any of the vets...

On our rounds.....Rick Snell

We don't get time often enough to sit down with our clients and discuss your future plans for the development, or in some cases survival, of your business, we are often too involved with the detail of cow and herd performance, and we sometimes don't look too hard at the overall strategy for an enterprise that has the potential to be passed down through generations to come.



Johnes disease control forces one to look at the years ahead, not just the here and now, and that can be very valuable beyond its use solely for one disease. It gives us the opportunity to look again at the big picture if you have not done that for a while.

There is still some grant money around for this scheme until the end of November this year so make use of it while you can.

Talking of the long term, I am really sorry to say I may well not see you again because I am retiring, and may not get out on farms much before finishing completely at the end of May. This is my own choice, not forced on me by any illness or other problem, but I know the main thing I will miss is the personal contact with you, which has meant a great deal to me over many years. From the professional point of view, the consolation is that I know that I leave your veterinary care in the best possible hands, you can have the greatest confidence in every one of them. But personally, I shall miss you.

Good luck for the future guys, and try not to let work get too much in the way of life!

Rick

Into the Sunset....

Our esteemed colleague Rick Snell is retiring on 31st May. He will still be doing some part-time work until then. Closer to the end of May we will be having a "Goodbye Rick" event - watch this space! We would like to take the opportunity to wish Rick a long and enjoyable retirement and to thank him for all he has done for FarmVets SouthWest. As you all know, Rick is a gentleman and has been an excellent and loyal partner. We will miss him and he goes with all our very best wishes for the future.



Lameness in the Dairy Cow

On Wednesday 27th February we held a meeting at Sedgemoor Market for our dairy clients. Thanks to all of you who attended, we hope you found it informative and interesting. For further details on our Lameness Monitor please contact Eoghan at our Ilminster office.