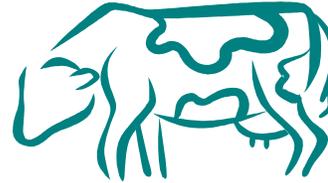




# FarmVets

SOUTHWEST



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

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t: 01278 663399

Stopgate Cross  
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Devon EX14 9NB  
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5, Larchfield Industrial Estate  
Dowlish Ford, Ilminster  
Somerset TA19 0PF  
t:01460 55004

## Newsletter March 2014

### Merial Cashback Vouchers

Merial are offering cashback on a number of their products:

- Ivomec
- Ivomec Super
- Trodax

The offer runs until 31st May 2014 so take advantage of this deal while it lasts.

**CASH BACK**  
WITH MERIAL BRANDED PRODUCTS

- ORAMEC® £5 per 5L pack
- TRODAX® £15 per 2x 500ml pack
- EPRINEX® £30 & £15 per 5L pack / per 2.5L pack
- IVOMEC® Classic Pour-on £10 per 2x 2.5L packs
- IVOMEC® Super £40 & £20 per 1000ml pack / per 500ml pack
- IVOMEC® Cattle Injection £5 per 500ml pack

Products eligible for Cash Back

### FarmVets welcomes Ben Pullen



Ben joins the FarmVets team in March. Born and bred in West Sussex, his grandparents were dairy and sheep farmers. He qualified from the Royal Vet College in 2004 and has spent the last three years working in several different farm animal practices across the South West and in New Zealand. Ben is keen to be more involved in proactive and progressive farm veterinary medicine, health planning and routine fertility work - hence his decision to join FarmVets SouthWest. He has begun the RCVS Certificate in Cattle Health & Production and has special interest in health planning and performance analysis, youngstock health, bovine respiratory disease, obstetrics, cattle surgery and small ruminant health and production.

Outside of work he is a lifelong supporter of Everton (which might rock the boat at FarmVets with the majority of his new colleagues being Liverpool fans!). He is hoping to be able to return to playing football for a local team when work and the girlfriend allows. He enjoys trying to surf, camping, travelling and anything outdoors and can often be found exploring the countryside with his dog.

### Congratulations...

To Randolph Miller of Moorshard Farm who will become the President of Holstein UK this year.



### TB Test Reminder...

Please remember to book your TB tests well in advance to avoid the disappointment of not getting the date of your choice.....

## TWIN LAMB DISEASE



A number of our farmers have been asking about Twin Lamb Disease in ewes. It's also known as Pregnancy Toxaemia, and has links to ketosis/acetonaemia in cattle. It typically occurs in late pregnancy when a ewe can't get enough nutrition to meet her needs, either because she doesn't eat enough of what's in front of her, or because what is in front of her isn't able to support her plus lambs.

**Who is at risk:** Ewes in late pregnancy with twins or triplets, ewes fed poor quality feed with a low dry matter and nutritional value and ewes with a sudden diet change, or periods without food caused by extreme weather, diet change or delayed feeding.

**Signs of twin lamb disease** include straying from the flock, drowsiness, reluctance or inability to stand, nervous signs including muscle tremors, vocalisation and blindness. The prognosis for the ewes and lambs survival can be poor if untreated.

**Diagnosis** is often based on farm history and the ewes condition, but may be aided by measuring ketones, which we can do for you with a quick on farm test.

**Prevention** is based on providing adequate nutrition based on scanning. This is achieved by scanning, grouping on number of lambs and silage analysis. Ewes shouldn't change body condition score during the last 2 months of pregnancy.

**Treatment:** Propylene glycol (Ketosaid) 50ml twice a day orally for 4 days. Calciject 6 50-80ml S/C once. If no improvement let us know, one option may be to induce the ewe to take the energy demands of the lambs away. Lambs born may require supplemental feeding or fostering.

## BVD Meeting



Thanks to all who attended this recent meeting. If you wish to eradicate this disease from your farm - please talk to us.



## On our (final) rounds.....Rob Hutchinson

*Are we doing anything different from a "few" years ago?*

- TB testing: believe it or not we used to be able to do the routine herd test every 4 years - now it seems to be every 60 days!
- Mastitis: the acute coli mastitis seems to be a thing of the past, or at least very much reduced - is this due to increased use of teat sealants at drying off?
- Lameness - 6-10 presented at the end of a visit - thank goodness for good foot trimmers and good lameness courses - but mobility scores and digital dermatitis????
- Routine fertility work—"PD-ing" on a regular basis was just taking off and the need to be doing this with "the drop" in conception rates over the years has become so much more important.
- Our understanding of nutrition, cow signals and all the other advances have meant it has been a good time to be working with the farming industry. So, as I bid farewell to you all, I would just like to say a big thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of your farm.



***Rob will be having a leaving do in the Spring.....watch this space for further details***