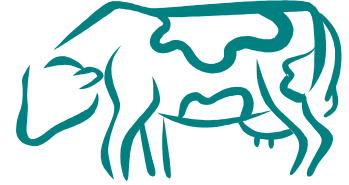


FarmVets
S O U T H W E S T



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Newsletter May 2014

INFECTIOUS DISEASE MONITOR SCHEME

What is it?

FVSW's infectious Disease Monitor Scheme offers quarterly bulk milk testing for four of the biggest infectious disease affecting herds: ***BVD, Leptospirosis, IBR and Fluke.***

This is now an entirely automated service using your payment testing samples. This means no more reminders to bring a bulk milk sample to us in the office - we do it all for you!



Why use it?

These major diseases can be extremely damaging to your farm. By knowing the relevant disease levels on your farm we can act to offer the most current advice by your own vet to plan for a profitable future. This is particularly important if you don't vaccinate.

How does it work?

You choose which of the four diseases you want us to test for and we do the rest! Your samples will be collected automatically every 3 months and tested in the same labs as your payment testing. Quarterly reports will then be sent to both you and us and we can then discuss these together.



How much does it cost?

£25 + VAT per year, per disease tested. For this you get four tests per year and all reporting information is included in this cost.

How do I sign up?

Simply contact the office asking to sign up for Infectious Disease Monitoring, letting us know which of the four diseases you would like testing for and we will set this up for you. For those of you already signed up to the original IDM scheme, please contact the office to confirm which diseases you still want to test for.

Early Fly Control Paramount This Year

The relatively mild and extremely wet winter has potentially failed to kill off over-wintering fly populations - so much so that as the weather warms up there could be an explosion in insects that both irritate ruminant livestock and transmit diseases.

Climate change is also influencing the way entomologists and animal health experts think about fly control, and pre-empting the threat this year to your livestock can go some way to reducing potential insect-borne disease problems later in the summer.

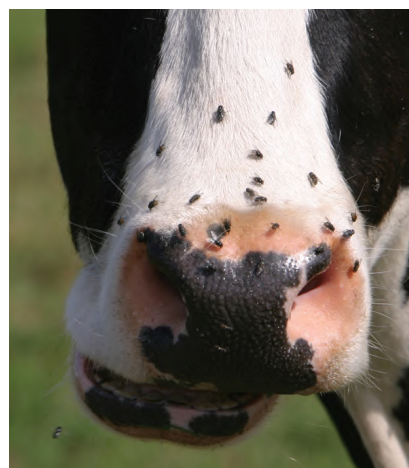


Early insecticide treatment of cattle can help reduce insect populations. Applying a proven insecticide early in the season will both reduce the first wave of attack from biting insects and cut next generation numbers. If you can kill flies early or even stop them feeding on your livestock, you will reduce their ability to breed.

Seeing flies or midges on or around animals are usually the main triggers for applying insecticides, but significant insect populations can have built up by then. Left untreated, an insignificant early season insect population can become a huge one in just a few weeks. The main objective is to kill as many insects as possible when the first landing parties arrive on your livestock to feed.

As well as treating cattle early, it's also important to keep on top of the insect problem as we move through the warmer months. A mixture of different fly and midge species threaten most farms with populations peaking at different times and waves of attackers hatch out to trouble herds all season long.

However, regular applications of Butox SWISH onto cattle will reduce the insect threat. An early first dose will help control any biting and sucking lice that have built up on animals over the winter housed period. You also get 8-10 weeks fly and lice protection from a single insecticide application. In addition, aim to reduce potential insect breeding sites and consider housing live stock at dawn and dusk if insects are particularly active.



***We have secured an excellent deal on Butox Swish.
Please speak to Art or Mike Price for further details.***



May Bank Holiday Opening Hours

Our offices will be shut on Bank Holiday Monday on 5th and 26th May. Drugs can be collected from our Sedgemoor Office **by appointment only**.