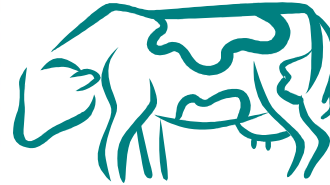




FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



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Newsletter May 2016

Use our BSE to avoid expensive mistakes

FarmVets SouthWest can **improve your herd fertility with breeding soundness exams** in your bulls.

Cows are regularly blamed for poor fertility in herds while the bull is often overlooked. A bull can suffer infertility due to disease, injury, or simply overuse/old age.

Completely infertile bulls are obvious as every cow will return with absolutely no conceptions occurring. Completely infertile bulls are, however, rare - **but between 20-30% of bulls are SUB-FERTILE.**

Sub-fertile bulls are a much bigger problem as they continue to get a few cows in calf thus avoiding suspicion, but fail to successfully inseminate a significant number they serve. The result is **poor conception rates, extended calving intervals, and significant economic loss.** This is a particular problem if a tight calving pattern is important. New bulls should be tested **before purchase** and existing bulls should be **tested annually** or **before each service period.**



A **breeding soundness exam (BSE)** involves a general physical exam including scrotal examination and measurement, penis examination, a rectal exam to check internal glands, and collection of semen using an electro-ejaculator. The semen is then assessed under a microscope to look for any potential infertility problems.

The consequence of missing a sub-fertile bull is costly. Contact our office for a price and to book in a breeding soundness exam with one of our qualified BSE vets.

Improve Abrupt Dry Off with Velactis



FVSW now stock **Velactis** - an aid to abrupt dry off in cows.

When given by single injection immediately after last milking, Velactis reduces milk leakage by 80% and decreases new intramammary infections during the dry period by 21%! Buy **Velactis** from FVSW to improve cow welfare, reduce mastitis, and save money!

May Bank Holiday Opening Hours



Our offices will be shut on Bank Holiday Monday 30th May.
Drugs can be collected from our Sedgemoor Office **by appointment only.**



Our Health Plans will reduce your Worm Burden

FarmVets SouthWest will reduce losses in your flock from just £60 using our **worm control plans**. Disease due to gut worms in sheep is the single biggest cause of lost production in the UK, costing the industry £84 million per year in 2005.



For £60 you will receive tailored advice on:

- Optimising use of clean grazing to minimise worm exposure
- Detecting wormer resistance within your flock (over 80% of English flocks have resistance to at least one class of wormer)
- Minimising selection for wormer resistance
- Treatment timing and selection to maximise effectiveness
- Avoiding unnecessary treatments
- Quarantine treatments to minimise the risk of importation of new resistant strains of worms

FarmVets SouthWest also offer single issue control plans on lameness, external parasites mastitis, neonatal lamb mortality etc. at £60 each. Alternatively, pay **£150** for a **complete flock health plan** which covers all of these topics.

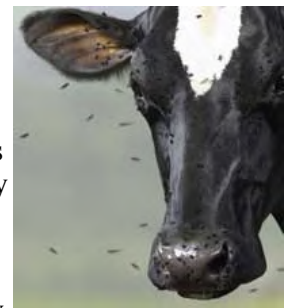
Faecal worm egg counts are essential tools for determining the **need to treat** and whether **treatments** have been **effective** and are vital for the detection of **wormer resistance**. We can perform these tests in our own lab at the following prices:

- Individual counts (including pooled) - £12
- 5 or more counts - £8 each
- Faecal egg count reduction test (to detect wormer resistance) - £100 per drug tested (which includes 10 before tests and 10 after tests)

Speak to one of our vets to find out when you should be testing!

Good Fly Control Starts Early

FarmVets SouthWest can help you prevent the **economic losses** and **welfare concerns** associated with **fly infestations**. In suckler cows and dairy heifers, fly species are a nuisance to the animal, **reducing liveweight gain**, but more importantly, flies are implicated in the spread of **summer mastitis**. Summer mastitis is a painful inflammatory condition spread by flies that typically leads to the loss of the affected quarter. In sheep, lambs may become affected by fly strike, a condition where the fly larvae (maggots) bury into the fleece of the animal and cause **severe damage to the skin and underlying tissues**.



With the weather warming up the risk of **fly-strike** is increasing. Aim to apply products in good time to prevent cases of this unpleasant, costly and potentially fatal problem. FarmVets SouthWest stock a variety of fly control products licenced to treat strike and prevent fly infestation in both cattle and sheep.



Blackleg Vaccine

Vaccinate your cattle and sheep now with **Blackleg Vaccine** to protect them ready for grazing this year. Available from us now at a **special price**.

