



FarmNews

Modern approach, traditional values

Newsletter January 2019

CHANGES TO 60 DAY TB TESTING RULE

We have recently been informed by the Animal Plant Health Agency that the 60 day testing rule has been changed. Previously, if an animal had been tested within the last 60 days you could, if needed, re-test the animal after day 42 of the test.

This is no longer possible, and no animal should be tested 60 days or less from their last test. This rule is applicable with immediate effect to any future testing, regardless if it is a WHT or PRMT. Please bear this in mind for all future movements you plan for your cattle.



If you have any questions please contact Holly at our Bridgwater office.

AI & FOOT TRIMMING COURSES



FVSW are holding both an AI and a Foot Trimming course this month.

The AI course is a 4 day course and starts on Monday 14th January. The first day is spent at our Bridgwater office, the remaining three days are on farm and you will receive AI certification at the end of the course



The Foot Trimming Course is a two day course held on Wednesday 23rd and Wednesday 30th January.

The AI course costs £300 + VAT and the Foot Trimming Course £250 + VAT. Please contact any of our offices to book your place.

MEDICINES COURSE

As you are all aware, new regulations and recommendations have come into place in the last year relating to medicines usage on farm (from both Red Tractor and Milk Buyers). This has involved changes in antibiotic usage and efforts to reduce antibiotic usage. There have also been stipulations as regards farm workers having attended a relevant training course in the administration of medicines.

In our continuing effort to support our farmers, we will be running a medicines course (charge applicable) on Wednesday 6th February at Sedgemoor Auction Centre at 2pm. This will cover all material relevant to these recommendations/regulations. Please contact any of our offices to book your place

COOL BAGS

A large number of our chiller/cool bags that we give out so that you can take vaccines home with you have gone AWOL. We would politely request that if you have one (or more!) of these that they are returned to our offices at your earliest convenience - many thanks.....

Mastitis Detection - are you doing enough?

Many cases of mastitis are “Grade 1”. They are mild and result in only changes in the milk; the udder and cow remain unaffected. This means that if we are purely observing and examining the udder from the outside, we will not diagnose every mastitis case. Not only are we then selling mastitic milk (resulting in raised bactoscan and somatic cell count), we are also allowing infections to go undetected, unrecorded and untreated. This can result in scenarios whereby farms have seemingly very low clinical mastitis rates (due to many cases never being detected and recorded) but higher bulk tank somatic cell counts. Some of these individual cases will indeed “self-cure” but some will go on to establish clinical (i.e. we can detect it) or subclinical (“undetectable”) infections. Allowing a subclinical infection to establish will make it more difficult to cure should we need to treat high cell count cows.



The key point is that we should be detecting mastitis up to twice daily. Conductivity meters and in-line filters can be useful, but the lack of these in your parlour shouldn't be used as an excuse. Everyone can and should pre-strip cows before milking. When used alongside pre-dipping, it will actually result in a better milk let down, faster milk flow rate and more complete milk out.

Following efficient mastitis detection full and accurate records should be kept helping us tackle mastitis rates should they become problematic. There is heavy pressure from consumers to reduce antibiotic usage with mastitis treatments under the spotlight. We can only reduce mastitis successfully if we know which cows are being affected and when.

Mastitis targets:

- Fewer than 1 in every 12 cows that calve should develop mastitis in the first 30 days post-calving. Higher rates indicate problems in the Dry Period.
- Fewer than 2 in 12 cows should get mastitis after day 30 of the lactation. Higher rates can indicate a problem in the lactation environment or the parlour.
- Mastitis rate should be below 40 cases per 100 cows per year. Straw yards are unfortunately often higher. Sand cubicle systems should be much lower.

Spirovac - Leptospirosis

Unfortunately there is no Leptavoid H vaccine currently available. The only alternative which is broadly similar (but not identical) is Spirovac. It is important to start considering Lepto vaccination because the time of peak transmission is at turnout.

Also Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning you or other farm staff can become infected from infected cows.



FARMVETS SOUTHWEST WISH ALL OUR CLIENTS A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS 2019



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