

FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



Unit 8 Sedgemoor Auction Centre
Market Way North Petherton
Somerset TA6 6DF
t: 01278 663399

Stopgate Cross
Yarcombe, Honiton
Devon EX14 9NB
t: 01404 861214

5, Larchfield Industrial Estate
Dowlsh Ford, Ilminster
Somerset TA19 0PF
t: 01460 55004

Newsletter November 2012



Eoghan McAlonan joins the partnership

We are pleased to announce that Eoghan has become a partner at FarmVets SouthWest. Eoghan has been with us for nearly 2 years and most clients (especially those in the south of the practice) will have got to know him well. He has recently bought a house in Ilminster and both he and his young family are delighted that they will be based here for many years to come.

FLUKING SHEEP AND CATTLE



Fluke in a liver

Nadis are warning farmers to expect a severe burden of fluke this year. Depending on the time of year it is important you use the right flukicide to target the infection you are dealing with.

Autumn: triclabendazole (e.g. Endofluke) to treat new fluke infection from this year

Winter and spring: closantel and nitroxanil (e.g. Closamectin or Trodax)

Summer: depending on the forecast, triclabendazole during wet, high risk, summers and the other flukicides for dryer weather.

Dairy cows can only be treated in the dry period but the choice of drugs follows these same principles. In short: if you are considering fluking your animals now, it is best to use Endofluke.



Please contact us for specific advice on your farm and for good deals on our wormers.

InfectiousDisease MONITOR

REMINDER !!!!

Please could all farms who have subscribed to the Infectious Disease Monitor hand in their milk samples for their second annual test.

If you haven't joined this yet but do want to know the risk status of the main infectious diseases in your herd, please contact any of our vets or our offices. If you are aware of relevant disease levels on your farm you can plan for a profitable future.



Foot bathing



Digital Dermatitis

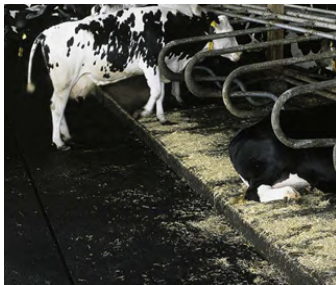
The wet conditions have caused a lot of problems with digital dermatitis, foul and slurry heel. These conditions don't normally cause many problems in the summer - they occur more frequently during the imminent housing period.

Prevention is, as so often, the key to the solution. When housed, cows' feet should be kept clean and dry. You can achieve this by providing plenty of clean dry bedding, scrape often where appropriate and ensure there is sufficient ventilation. On pasture special attention is needed to keep walkways dry and to avoid muddy fields.



Try to avoid....

A good way to make cows feet more resistant to infection is to make use of foot bathing.



Clean and dry and well bedded

Daily foot bathing is increasingly popular and seems to work well but is not always an easy solution. Weekly to monthly applications (for 3-5 days) are a bare minimum. Formalin still does the job to prevent foot infections but please ensure you use it safely as it is potentially dangerous for your health. Copper/Zinc Sulphate are good options as well and various commercially available multi-compound solutions claim to have a beneficial effect.



Foot bathing

It is very important to know the volume of your foot bath to get the concentration right - do you know yours?

$$\frac{\text{length(cm)} \times \text{width(cm)} \times \text{height(cm)}}{1000} = \text{volume (litres)}$$

Please discuss with your vet which strategies will best suit your farm.

On our Rounds....



Calf scours continues to be a problem for a lot of farms. Mortality due to dehydration from this disease is not uncommon.

A calf looking dull with sunken eyes is about 10% dehydrated. For a 50kg calf, this means it needs 5L of fluid just to replace the amount lost from scours. Add to this the normal daily losses from urinating and sweating (5-10% body weight a day) and this calf would need between 7.5L and 10L a day to stay hydrated!

Give 2-4 feeds throughout the day consisting of 2L warm (not hot) water plus electrolytes. If the calf doesn't drink, a calf stomach tube feeder bag is a great (and cheap) investment. It is very important to continue to offer milk in between stomach tubing as this is vital to maintain energy levels in the calf and not to starve the calf. For more advice on rehydration powders and using calf stomach tube feeders, please ask one of our vets.