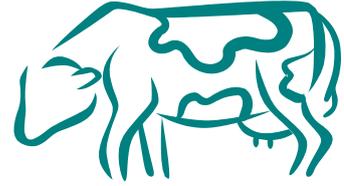


FarmVets

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Newsletter November 2016

How often should I footbath?

A huge thank you to those of you that attended our 'Lameness in YOUR dairy herd' meeting last month. It was great to see so many of you there. One particular area that generated a lot of interest was footbathing. This comes as no surprise given the positive impact it can have on herds if it is carried out effectively.

Digital dermatitis is now thought to affect 95% of UK dairy herds. Once digital dermatitis infection has been diagnosed within **YOUR** herd we **MUST** employ measures to control the levels of infection. **When ignored, digital dermatitis can get out of control very quickly.**



Although biosecurity and individual cow treatment are important control measures listed in the digital dermatitis 'Five Point Plan', frequent foot bathing is critical in reducing the level of infection in the herd. The most common biocide of choice amongst our herds is currently 5% formalin, **but just how frequently should you be footbathing?** As with other aspects of footbathing (e.g. design) this is highly contested and supporting evidence for regular formalin footbathing is sparse. Many of you will be footbathing every other day but recent evidence suggests four consecutive milkings may be more effective? **The truth is we need to find a set up that works for your farm.**

Those of you that attended our meeting will know just how valuable monitoring lameness prevalence on farm can be. Regular mobility scoring and examination of your lame cows will allow you to monitor how effective your current footbathing protocol is and whether adjustments are needed. Footbath protocols are just one of the many areas **FVSW Lameness Reduction Plan** can target to reduce the levels of lameness within your herd.

For more information, speak to a member of the team

Possible stock issues with Heptavac P



Due to a manufacturing issue with Ovivac P, many people are now using Heptavac P. We therefore envisage a shortage of Heptavac P on the horizon. For those of you who are going to need Heptavac P over the next few months we recommend that you stock up on supplies in November whilst stocks last.

Stamp out Sheep Scab!

Sheep scab is very contagious and has major welfare and production impacts on affected flocks. If you **suspect** you have sheep scab, contact us as an **incorrect diagnosis can lead to wasted money** on unnecessary or ineffective treatments.

Treatments include organophosphate dips and injectable macrocyclic lactones. The latter include Dectomax and Cydectin injections. Please speak to us for **advice on the correct use** of these as they have different periods of activity, requiring **different treatment schedules**.



Prevention is better than cure, and is far cheaper than having to treat the whole flock! Speak to us about **quarantine procedures** to avoid the introduction of sheep scab to your flock.

How our vets can improve your nutrition



FarmVets SouthWest can help you improve nutrition on your farm quickly and easily. The secret to successful nutrition management is to remember to **monitor it regularly**. The sooner you spot a nutrition problem, the quicker, easier and cheaper it is to correct.

Once a successful ration has been formulated it's important to check it's actually working! This doesn't just mean monitoring your litres, protein and fat levels. There are a number of other things we can look at. Ask your vet to spend 10 minutes at the end of your next visit to look at any of the following effective ways of monitoring nutrition success on your farm:

- Sieving dung for signs of subacute ruminal acidosis
- Blood ketone testing your fresh cows
- Measuring feed face space requirements
- Learn how to Body Condition Score and when to do it
- Accurate silage sampling with our specialised core sampler
- Discuss the benefits of milk recording and interherd performance reporting

Book Your Winter TB Tests

Book in your winter TB tests now to avoid disappointment. The bank holidays around Christmas and New Year make TB testing difficult. If you require TB testing around this period please book early.



BACS Payments

BACS is an easy and secure way of paying your FVSW monthly account.

Our account details are 30-92-40 (Sort Code) Account 01422048 should you wish to pay by BACS