



FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



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Newsletter November 2014

VACCINES - IMPORTANT!!

We have been investigating major disease outbreaks on farms which should have been prevented by vaccination. Unfortunately the farmers were using the same bottle of vaccine over a few weeks. **THIS DOES NOT WORK!!!** Please don't learn the hard way. After 8 hours the vaccine is **DEAD**. Common vaccines which are misused in this way include "Rotavec Corona" and "Bovipast RSP".



This problem often occurs when there are not enough animals to use up the whole bottle of vaccine. For vaccines that need two jabs to start a course (especially Bovipast RSP) remember you could use half the doses for an animal's initial course and the other half for another animal's second course - **if the vaccine is used at the same time**.

Unfortunately in some instances you will still have vaccine left over. Although regrettable, please do not be tempted to store it and re-use it. Not only will you not be protecting against the disease, injecting it will waste your time and stress the animals.



When it comes to vaccines remember:

- STORE IN A FRIDGE.
- ONCE OPENED USE UP WITHIN 8 HOURS
- DISCARD ANYTHING REMAINING IN THE BOTTLE AFTER 8 HOURS.
- FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BOTTLE - ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO THE AGE OF THE ANIMALS THAT WE CAN INJECT.

Antibiotic Residues

It is important to keep antibiotic residues in your milk to a minimum. Always follow the milk withdrawal advice on the bottle or tubes label. **REMEMBER** when using combinations of therapies that are not licensed to be used together, then the statutory milk withdrawal period is 7 days.

TB Test Reminder

Please remember to book your TB tests with us well in advance to avoid the disappointment of not being able to test on the date of your choice.



On our Rounds....Graeme Martin



A couple of weeks ago I was called to see a flock of 96 weaned lambs suffering from ill-thrift. Seven lambs had died within the last three weeks, and one lamb was very weak and recumbent. On closer examination this lamb was in poor condition, with poor quality wool, a very fast heart rate and was anaemic. A good history of worming and fluke treatment indicated that this was an unusual case and pointed towards a possible trace element deficiency.



Bloods were taken from the individual lamb to test for Cobalt, Selenium and Copper levels and I advised the farmer, in the mean time, to drench all the lambs with a cobalt and selenium drench. Within days the lamb had improved dramatically and the farmer reported that the others in the flock seemed to be eating more and had more vitality. The next day the lab results confirmed a deficiency in cobalt.

In ruminants cobalt is used to synthesise vitamin B12, which is critical for normal metabolism, wool growth and production of red blood cells. Deficiency in this vitamin caused all the signs seen on this farm.



Cobalt supplementation is very cheap and is, in certain instances, included within worming drenches. If you are concerned that your lambs aren't thriving, or that your soil may be deficient in these trace elements, then contact us for best advice.



Congratulations to Matt House

Congratulations to Matt House of Fowler's Plot farm, Chedzoy. He has just won the Cogent Futures Award. This is a prestigious national cattle breeding and genetics competition and his prize includes a trip to Holland to see aspects of the Dutch dairy industry. Well done Matt!

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Denning



Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Denning, Temple Farm, Chedzoy, who won Champion Aberdeen Angus Bull at the recent Carlisle Bull Sale.

Congratulations to John Wylde



Congratulations to John Wylde, Martlands Farm, Woolavington, whose bull calf won Champion Charolais at the recent show at Sedgemoor Auction Centre.