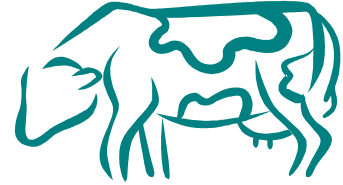


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S O U T H W E S T



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Newsletter November 2013

British Cattle Vet Conference

We attended the BCVA Conference at Harrogate recently. We will report back to you over the next few months with any recent developments and scientific work or recommendations. This month we start with a:

CHECKLIST OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO SUPPORT METABOLIC AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH IN TRANSITION DAIRY COWS



MANAGEMENT

- Feed daily for 3-5% left over
- > 75cm feeding space per cow or no more than 4 cows per 5 headlocks
- < 85% stall/cubicle stocking density
- > 10m² bedded area/cow in loose yards
- Build for 130-140% of the average monthly calvings
- Good cow comfort in stalls/cubicles is imperative
- <24 hours in calving pen
- House heifers in pens separate from cows
- Minimise group changes
- Body condition score 3-3.5 at calving

TRANSITION DIET

- 3-4 weeks on close up diet or 6 weeks as 1 dry group
- Meet but do NOT exceed energy requirements in week 8 to 3 weeks pre-calving
- Water - ad-lib, 10cm linear room per cow and 2 sources per pen
- Adequate levels Vitamin E/Selenium
- Avoid Milk Fever - dry cow diet management

MONITORING

- Monitor NEFA's (non-esterified fatty acids) in the last week pre-calving and at week 1 after calving (blood samples)
- Monitor BHB's (Ketone bodies) in week 1 (blood samples)
- Monitor BHB's in weeks 2-3
- Screen for vaginal discharge (Routine Visit)

FarmVets SouthWest Survey

Recently some of you were picked randomly for an independent survey on your experience and opinions on the service you receive from FarmVets. We would like to thank the 50 plus clients who took time to answer the survey organised by Mo Gannon Associates.

Thank You!
😊

The results are back.....and we are very pleased to say that with regards to client satisfaction, FarmVets SouthWest have received the highest score nationally of large animal practices surveyed to date. We thank you for your comments and will endeavour to continue to give you the level of service you deserve.

Congratulations....

To Randolph and Brian Miller of Moorshard Farm, Bridgwater on their recent successes at the South West Dairy Event. They achieved excellent results once again with their Holsteins and Brown Swiss cattle.



Well done.....

Congratulations to Joe and Rachel Horler of Maundrils Farm, Highbridge. They were recently awarded the Dairy Employers Award by the Somerset Dairy Careers Project. This is an excellent achievement and well deserved.



and further congratulations to

Henry Lucas of Bakers Farm, Puckington for winning the Wyke Farms West Country Dairy Award 2013 and gaining a scholarship towards his studies in dairy farming...well done Henry!



Repeat Breeders

We all know those cows that continually return every three weeks. Recent work has shown that inserting a PRID at Day 5 after service will help get some of these cows pregnant. Timing is critical. Give it a try?

BVD

There is a great deal of discussion, up to a national level, about the eradication of BVD from our herds. FarmVets SouthWest are keen to make sure our clients are involved. BVD is one of the single biggest threats to your herd. Please contact us if you wish to make a start - otherwise, watch this space.



Red Tractor Assurance



Many of you will be asked to complete Herd Health plans and reviews by the "Red Tractor" assurance. This has been met with a mixed reception. We would urge you to try and see this as a positive opportunity to assess and plan for the health of your herd. Veterinary surgeons are being asked to sign these reviews. We will therefore be obliged to do a "proper job" in signing these off - and we will be doing so. Please speak to us so that we can make time to help - and don't leave it to the last moment.