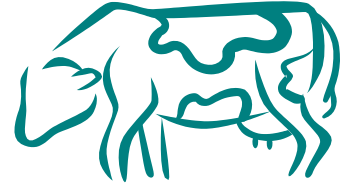


**FarmVets**  
S O U T H W E S T



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## Newsletter October 2016

### FarmVets SouthWest invites you to an Evening Meeting

Wednesday, 19th October 2016 at 7pm for 7.30 prompt start  
Sedgemoor Auction Centre

#### ‘Preventing Lameness in YOUR Dairy Herd’

Our meeting will focus on changes that can be made to prevent the most common causes of lameness in the dairy cow to reduce lameness prevalence and save you money.

Free bar and hot meal served at the end of the meeting.  
Please contact one of our offices to reserve your place as soon as possible.

### Disappointing Scanning Results? Speak to us!

Causes of high barren rates and reduced twinning percentages can also cause abortions, stillbirths and weak lambs. Speak to FarmVets SouthWest about your scanning results so we can work together to avoid further losses.



After a mating period of two cycles (34 days) **only 2% of ewes should be empty**. A higher barren rate than this should ring alarm bells, as should a lower twinning rate than usual. Ewes may not be cycling, have reduced ovulations due to poor body condition and/or disease such as liver fluke or sheep scab. Untreated, these conditions will lead to further body condition loss and reduced productivity at lambing time.

**Infectious causes of abortion**, such as toxoplasmosis, cause **early embryonic loss as well as abortion**. It is better to reduce the risk by planning ahead e.g. by vaccinating before mating with Toxovax, but detecting the problem early will allow steps to reduce losses to be taken.

**Selenium and iodine deficiency** both cause high barren rates and lower scanning percentages but also the **birth of weak lambs**. Identifying these deficiencies after scanning allows correction before lambing e.g. Vitesel injection for selenium, to prevent these further losses.

Finally, poor scanning results may result from **infertile or subfertile rams**. It is best to plan in advance and ask us to examine your rams before mating, but **breeding soundness examinations** can also be performed after mating to identify problem rams.

## How FVSW can help you get the best out of your silage

FarmVets offer **silage sampling, silage analysis and complete diet formulation**. It is imperative to **sample silage before feeding** to allow good diet formulation and ensure maximal cow health and production. The composition of silage is extremely variable not only between clamps but within them. A ration that works brilliantly at the start of a clamp can be terrible within a matter of weeks simply due to a change in silage composition as you progress through the clamp.



Adjusting the ration based on **analysis** rather than guesswork has obvious benefits which easily outweigh the inexpensive process of silage sampling. It is important **to sample as often as possible**. This obviously varies based on how fast you are progressing through a clamp, but typically **monthly sampling is a good starting point**. It is also critical to sample correctly; grabbing a couple of handfuls from the face will **not** give us a representative sample. FarmVets are able to collect representative samples using a **silage core**. **We can then analyse this silage**, and **David can formulate a complete ration**. **Contact any of our offices to book in a silage sample visit before you start feeding it this winter.**



## Ceporex versus Cevaxel RTU

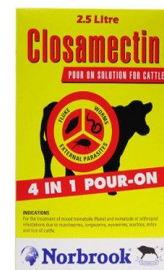
It is increasingly important for our industry to demonstrate responsible use of antibiotics. As a result, some milk buyers are banning the use of certain antibiotics on your farms. These include the 3rd & 4th generation cephalosporins. **Cevaxel RTU (nil milk withdrawal)** is a third generation cephalosporin which means many milk buyers will not allow its use.



An alternative which may be allowed for some is a 1st generation cephalosporin - **Ceporex (also nil milk withdrawal)**. **CHECK YOUR CONTRACT FIRST!** FarmVets SouthWest wants to promote the responsible use of antibiotics to reduce antimicrobial resistance. **Use of any antibiotic, including Ceporex, should only be after consultation with the vet.**

## HOUSING DEAL !

FVSW can prevent your cattle suffering from fluke, worm and ectoparasite (lice, mites) burdens this housing season. FVSW stock Endofluke, containing triclabendazole, which is active against immature and adult fluke. We also stock a variety of other wormers effective against roundworms picked up during the grazing season and any larvae which may overwinter within the cow. Lice infestations can cause severe irritation and itching as well as production losses during the Winter. By using a product that is active against lice, such as an Ivermectin (e.g. Closamectin) or a pyrethroid (such as Swish) you can prevent these infestations.



**CLOSAMECTIN IS ON SALE AT A SPECIAL PRICE THIS MONTH.**  
**It will treat roundworms, adult and late immature fluke, mites and lice.**

## Heptavac-P Plus Deal

Take advantage of our Heptavac-P Plus deal this month and get your flock vaccinated before winter. **Heptavac-P Plus** helps protect your flock from a large number of diseases including lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney, struck, tetanus, braxy, blackleg, black disease, clostridial metritis caused by *Clostridium perfringens* types B, C and D, *Cl.septicum*, *Cl.novyi*, *Cl.chauvoei* and *Cl.tetani* & *pasteurellosis*.

