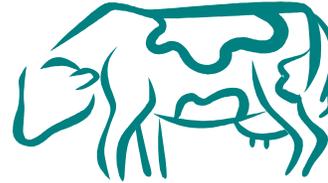# FarmVets
S O U T H W E S T

www.thefarmvets.co.uk

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
Dowlish Ford, Ilminster
Somerset TA19 0PF
t:01460 55004

Newsletter October 2014

Calf Scours...Part 3: Prevention

In a word…..Colostrum!!!

In a sentence….four litres of colostrum inside six hours. We can easily check colostrum uptake by blood testing calves aged 1 to 7 days. Remember, colostrum itself can vary in quality and can be assessed using a colostrometer.

Most scour bugs are part of "SIMS" (S**t-in-mouth-syndrome).
If we separate calves from other (diseased) calves faeces, we will have less scours.
Points to consider include:

- Milk buckets washed, disinfected and dried between each use
- Clean, well drained, heavily bedded pens
- All feed off the ground
- Clean ad lib water
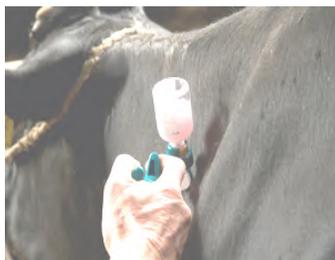- A separate sick pen is a good idea

Then should we know which bug we are dealing with, we can tip the scales in our favour by using bug specific further measures. These products should only be used following a veterinary diagnosis, as part of your Herd Health Plan.

Bug	Prevention Options
Ecoli	Vaccine available for mother
Cryptosporidium	Halocur drench
Rota and Corona Virus	Vaccine available for mother
Salmonella	Vaccine available for mother
Coccidiosis	Vecoxan drench/Deccox in feed

For more information on any of the above call one of our vets

Prevention is better than Cure!

Pneumonia season is looming on the horizon and will be on us before we know it! Young stock are at particular risk and it has significant welfare and financial implications to a farm! The biggest risk factor is stress, due to housing and weaning. In order to reduce the risk of pneumonia, immunity should be established before these stressful events.

Bovipast RSP® is the most comprehensive vaccine available – covering for both viral and bacterial causes of pneumonia, however it requires two injections four weeks apart before full immunity is achieved. Certain farms may have significant pneumonia risk and this regime may not provide cover quickly enough. In that case an INTRA-NASAL vaccine will provide almost immediate cover at housing time.

We have measured the growth weight check due to pneumonia on some of our farms and have seen a 9kg difference at weaning between healthy calves and those that have had pneumonia.

On our rounds....Matt Swanborough

One night in the week I was called to a calving which had been complicated by a uterine torsion. Whilst this was corrected, a tight cervix prompted the decision to perform a caesarean. Despite some of the uterine tissue being damaged by the torsion the operation was a success and the cow started to recover well. The following week however she went off her cake and her milk started to drop. A suspected displaced abomasum was confirmed when a 'ping' could be heard on the left flank. Once again the cow was operated on and a LDA was corrected and surgically fixed in place. Thankfully she is now doing well and operating twice on the same cow is a rare occurrence.

Individuals are at greatest risk of abomasal displacement within the first month of calving but risks can be minimised by ensuring there is enough fibre in the diet to maintain adequate rumen fill. Other post calving metabolic diseases such as hypocalcaemia (milk fever) and ketosis should also be avoided as these can increase the risk of LDA.

Ubro Yellow is back.....

For those of you who have had culture and sensitivity on mastitis samples which indicate specific use of Ubro Yellow, or where Ubro Yellow is indicated as part of your Herd Health plan - then good news - it's back for now.

Congratulations....

To Chris and Julie Reed of Eastside Farm who scooped the Farm Business Cream Award for Young Dairy Farmer of the Year (and were also runners up in the Health & Welfare Category)...well done!!