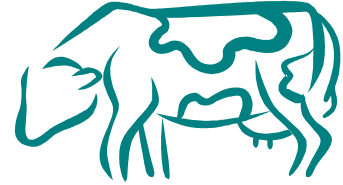


# FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



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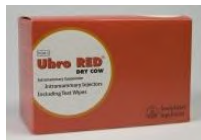
## Newsletter October 2012

### CONGRATULATIONS!

David Taylor has recently been awarded the Diploma in Bovine Nutrition. This is a prestigious qualification with David being the first vet to complete this diploma and becoming one of only two Vets to hold this in the UK. This unique combination of Veterinary Surgeon and Bovine Nutrition Specialist is an excellent addition to the list of services provided by FarmVets SouthWest. David is regularly asked to consult on farms with nutrition problems across the UK; **FVSW clients have this option on their doorstep.....use it!** Well done David!



### GOOD (AND BAD) NEWS



**GOOD NEWS**..... we have been reliably informed that Ubro Red Dry Cow tubes will be back on our shelves in the next month. This is an excellent dry cow tube for farms who suffer with post calving E.coli mastitis.

**BAD NEWS**.....unfortunately Ubro Yellow milking cow tubes will be out of stock until the New Year due to a manufacturing problem.



**GOOD NEWS**.....to compensate for the loss of Ubro Yellow we are running an excellent offer on Ubrolexin: **BUY 2 BOXES AND GET ONE FREE OF CHARGE WHILST STOCKS LAST.**

### **DON'T FORGET...**

**We have excellent offers on *Ivomec Super*, *Trodax* and *Eprinex* this month.**

### LAST CHANCE!!!!

Thinking of vaccinating your sheep flock against **Enzootic abortion**? Enzootic abortion is the largest cause of sheep abortion in the UK. Vaccine must be given no later than four weeks before tupping. Excellent deals available!!

## A NOTE ON COPPER

Wet ground and high soil contamination of grass/silage means that iron, sulphur and molybdenum levels may be higher than normal this year. Unfortunately, the wet weather has reduced the maize crop and feeding maize seems to reduce the susceptibility of cows to copper problems. The higher the percentage of grass silage compared to maize silage the greater the chance of copper problems. Two problems with one cause.

With the above out of the way it is worth going through a few pointers with regard to cattle and copper. The requirement for copper in cattle is very low. It is unlikely that copper in the diet is less than the level needed for cattle. That is, straightforward copper deficiency is rare.

### Clinical Signs and Supplementation

Clinical signs of copper deficiency are actually caused by excess molybdenum in the diet. Molybdenum binds with sulphur to form a compound that binds copper.

If the molybdenum compound is absorbed it attacks enzymes in the body causing changes in coat colour, poor growth, poor fertility and reduced immune systems etc.

Copper supplements actually work by binding molybdenum in the rumen (dietary copper, boluses, licks etc) or in the blood stream e.g. Veticop.

If the above seems confusing ~ and it is ~ think of it this way: Cattle don't need much copper for themselves, they mostly need it to block the toxic effects of molybdenum.

### Testing for Copper

Testing for copper/molybdenum is not straightforward; cows can have enough copper and still too much molybdenum! The best of the current tests are offered by the University of Nottingham which measures copper, enzyme activity and other indicators of likely toxic effects of molybdenum.

It is best to sample 2-4 animals from each group e.g. in-calf heifers, dry cows and milkers/sucklers. We have a deal with the lab to do 12 samples for the price of 10, reducing the cost per cow from £25 per sample to £20.83 per sample.

## HONITON SHOW 2012

Thanks to all of you who braved the wet and muddy conditions to visit our stand. Despite the weather the show was a great success. Congratulations to Anthony Edwards of Howley Farm who won the first prize of a luxury hamper and to David and Sue Osborne of Oxenford Farm who claimed the second prize of a crate of beer. We'll see you all again next year (hopefully minus the wellies.....!)

