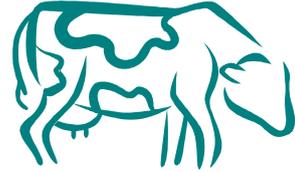




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**FarmVets**  
SOUTHWEST

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## Newsletter August 2010

### A New Branch for FarmVets SouthWest

FVSW have opened a new branch at Stopgate Filling Station in Yarcombe on the A303 next to the junction with the Corfe road to Taunton. We hope that this will be very convenient for existing clients in that area. Please phone Sue and Maggie at Stopgate with any enquiries, 01404 861214.

## Client Meeting September 2010

FVSW are pleased to announce a talk by:

**Dr Andrew Bradley MRCVS**

Dr Bradley is a world authority on the control and prevention of mastitis. It will take place at Sedgemoor Market on the 21st of September. Please arrive at 7pm for a 7.30 start. There will be food after the event as well as a complimentary bar. In order that we may get catering sorted for the event, please contact us as soon as possible if you wish to attend.

### New Faces at FVSW

We are very sorry to have to tell you that Steven is leaving us. The bearded man, who has been with FVSW since the beginning, is following his heart to Shepton Mallet. If you would like to give Steve a proper send off then please come to the Compass Inn @ Jen 24 on Thursday 16th September (7.30-9.30). We would like to thank Steve for all his hard work over the years.

Steven will be replaced by Joe Davies, a highly experienced farm animal vet who comes to us from Bideford. Joe, who is 10 years qualified, has recently returned from a working trip to New Zealand. We feel sure that Joe will be a valuable addition to the FVSW team.

### Bull Fertility

We have been testing a lot of bulls this month after complaints of cows returning or poor PD sessions. A drop in fertility in bulls can have many causes from lameness to testicular infections. A pre-breeding soundness check of bulls can detect problems before they become a disasters because of high numbers of empty cows. A bull exam costs £150, with discounts when testing more than one bull, which includes a full physical exam plus semen collection and analysis. Our ram fertility exam costs £60 also with discounts for multiple rams.

### A Replacement for Metricure

Metricure syringes will be temporarily unavailable and will be replaced by Cevaxil. Cevaxil is a powder that has to be reconstituted with water (like the old powdered Ex-cenel). Each reconstituted 20 ml bottle will treat two cows (10mls per treatment) and works out the same price as Metricure. Since no available drug is licensed for intra-uterine treatment the use of Cefenil for this purpose will mean a 7 day milk and 28 day meat withhold. We are now stocking catheters that will fit normal syringes. These catheters can be washed and re-used and cost £1.60 plus VAT.

## Parasite Forecast

### Liver Fluke

Drier summers and a colder winter have resulted in lower fluke disease forecast this year but the South-West is not a low risk area even this year. The weather has been variable, to say the least, on a year to year basis so in order to reduce the risk to cattle next year then look to fluke cattle and sheep well this year. It is important to have a post-mortem exam in sudden deaths in sheep and lambs to identify possible fluke problems. Sheep should be treated with Triclabendazole containing products e.g. Tribex or Endospec but cattle can be treated with Endospec, Tribex, Trodax, Closamectin or Ivomec Super. Trodax cannot be used in dairy cows though. However, please speak to a vet since not all products kill all immature stages of fluke.

### Sheep Nematodes

The risk of worm scours in lambs has been reduced this year but a wet period can bring severe problems on quickly and also result in greater problems next year because of heavier pasture contamination in late Autumn. Rainfall across the country has varied hugely as has rainfall across north Somerset. So, please be mindful of a potential problem still to come.

Quarantine arrangements need to be in place for breeding replacements to reduce the risk of resistant worms being bought in, especially *Haemonchus* worms. Current best practice involves sequential full dose treatments with monepantel (Zolvix) or Levacur and moxidectin (Cydectin), followed by yarding for 24-48 hours, and turnout onto contaminated pasture. The details of these arrangements (and others needed to avoid the introduction of diseases such as scab and virulent footrot) should be set out as part of a veterinary flock health plan.

### Cattle Nematodes

September is the peak month for lungworm since thunderstorms can break dung pats up and distribute the larvae. Any appearance of respiratory signs at grass should be investigated. A wet summer will generally increase the risk of type 1 ostertagiasis in young cattle, as discussed for sheep above, while a drier summer may lead to a late peak in infection. Many larvae picked up late in the season in this way will halt their development and overwinter within the stomach wall of the calves. These may resume development in the late winter/spring leading to sudden and severe scour (type 2 ostertagiasis). A housing dose of an ivermectin-type drug (Enovex) (Group 3) is given to address this risk. In addition, if ostertagiasis is controlled by a dose and move strategy, the original pastures will be potentially infective if youngstock are moved back onto them later in the season, leading to an increased risk of type 2 disease.

