



# FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



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## Newsletter September 2013

### COUGHING CATTLE?

We are receiving reports of coughing cattle right across the practice. Lungworm is the most likely cause if cattle are at pasture at this time of year. Dry conditions may have reduced incidence somewhat, but when the heavy downpours eventually did arrive, they would have broken faecal pats and helped the distribution of infective larvae on the pasture, increasing the risk of disease.



Lungworm is unpredictable, and safe grazing strategies are rarely successful. Unvaccinated grazing cattle will be at risk of disease if they are naïve, e.g. in their first grazing season, in their second grazing (depending on management) or adults which have not built up immunity through natural challenge in previous years. Vaccination can be a reliable control method, but requires planning months in advance of risk. For those suffering from the disease, treatment will be required.

For lactating cows we now stock *Eprizero*, a cost effective, zero milk withhold pour-on. For non-lactating animals, especially those severely affected, a wormer containing Levamisole (Levacur) is the treatment of choice. It has a slower kill action and so the dead lungworms tend not to overwhelm the lungs (this can be a problem at times with Ivermectins).

### FARMVETS WELCOMES JAY TUNSTALL TO THE VET TEAM



Jay Tunstall joins FarmVets at the beginning of September. Born and bred in Liverpool, he's looking forward to making the move down to the South West. Jay graduated from Liverpool University in 2009 with a degree in Bioveterinary Science, and went straight to the Royal Veterinary College, London to get his degree in Veterinary Medicine. During these years he spent as much time as possible doing large animal work, in particular researching heifer calf health over the last year.

In his spare time he likes to keep busy. Jay's a football fan, and of course being from Liverpool supports Liverpool FC, though he fears that his own football abilities leave a lot to be desired. He's also been in the TA for the last 7 years which he says has given him many great experiences and opportunities, as well as testing him mentally and physically. Just in case he's not busy enough he's even hoping to take up kayaking soon. Jay is looking forward to working with everyone at FVSW, as well as getting out on farm and meeting you all. His main interests are calf health and fertility, though he's keen to absorb as much knowledge as he can from the experienced and forward thinking team at FVSW.

## HONITON SHOW 2013

So after the appalling weather of last year we were treated to bright sunshine at Honiton Show on the hottest day of 2013. Thanks to all of you who came to see us for a chat and to enjoy a cool drink and a bite to eat at our stand which provided some much welcome shade on the day.



Numbers were definitely up on last year and the livestock classes and show displays were well attended as always. We'll see you all again next year....let's hope the sun shines again (but maybe just a little less brightly for the comfort of both humans and animals....)



## CONGRATULATIONS...

to Brian and Randolph Miller of Moorshard Farm on their excellent success at the Royal Welsh Show.... Well Done!

General Farm  
Worker/Milker required  
Bridgwater area

Full or part time.  
Please call 01278 723490

## ON OUR ROUNDS....COREIN SELLES



*Cow with severe ketosis (slow fever, acetonaemia) accompanied with nervous symptoms.*

On a Wednesday morning a few weeks ago I was called out to a cow that appeared to be in a lot of pain and distress. The farmer had already treated the animal in the morning with glycerol as he suspected her to be suffering from ketosis.

Ketosis is a disease that develops in early lactation due to the increasing milk yield and the high demand of energy that comes with this. Cows will mobilize their fat reserves but if these aren't sufficient they can develop ketosis. In most cases the cow will have a decreased appetite, especially decreased intake of cake, milk drop and dullness. Sometimes (and definitely in this case) the animals can show nervous symptoms. As I walked in the shed the cow was holding her head almost vertically in the air with her eyes bulging out. At this stage the cow is literally intoxicated with acetone (the same stuff as in nail polish remover) and will feel quite high.

We treated the cow with glucose in the vein and steroids in the muscle. To support her liver function she was given a course of Dairy Boost. As we walked her back in to the sick pen she had already begun to look a little brighter.