



Dear Farmer,

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter. Hopefully if I write a lot about how dry it is then by the time you read this we will be in the middle of a week of rain!

We have been pretty busy even with the dry weather – there do seem to be an awful lot of flies around and this resulted in an increase in cases of New Forest Eye and Summer Mastitis.

Also in this dry weather it's worth being aware that grazing animals will seek out vegetation in ditches and bogs that they would not usually have to resort to – and many of these plants can be toxic. In some cases you may have to restrict access as we have seen some serious issues with plants like Hemlock causing poisoning. We posted a graphic on our Facebook page of some of the more common poisonous marsh plants that we see locally.

I'll be away but Ulli and the team will be at Chagford show again this year, and look forward to seeing you there for a drink and slice of cake – don't forget your raffle entry!

**Ashley**

Don't forget.....

- Fluke Treatment
- Keep up to date with Fly Treatment on sheep and cattle
  - Arrange PDs for Spring calvers
  - Vaccinate ewes and ewe lambs to protect them against Enzootic abortion.
- Plan pneumonia vaccine for Spring born calves so they are protected in time for housing
  - Book in ram vasectomies
- Mid-summer worming dose with Zolvix for lambs to reduce resistant worm build up

### **HOT WEATHER AND POTENTIAL RISKS TO LIVESTOCK**

In June we saw the temperature rise well above average and as well below average rainfall. With many areas now facing drought conditions, we need to consider associated livestock welfare issues. Advice below has been provided by the APHA.

#### **Water Shortages**

All animals require an adequate supply of water. The use of alternative water supplies in dry weather could lead to accidental intoxications. For example, if transporting water in bowsers, ensure they have been adequately cleaned beforehand, especially if they have previously contained fertilisers.

#### **Heat Stress**

Heat stress can affect fertility and cause production losses in all animals, especially in high producing dairy cattle and can lead to welfare problems. Provide shade, minimise the time animals are held in strong sunlight and ensure good ventilation for those which are housed.

#### **Flies and Strike**

Flies may exacerbate the spread of infections, for example New Forest Eye and Summer Mastitis. However, a key risk to the health and welfare of sheep is blowfly strike. SCOPS have produced a product guide that provides treatment and control options for this condition: [http://www.scops.org.uk/workspace/pdfs/product-options-table\\_3.pdf](http://www.scops.org.uk/workspace/pdfs/product-options-table_3.pdf).

#### **Plant poisonings**

Weeds survive remarkably well in dry weather, probably due to their often deep seated roots. Ragwort may be eaten if dried out in the pasture. When it becomes more palatable to stock. Hedgerow plants such as the nightshades or bryonies may be browsed as animals are seeking shade cast by hedges. Animals may also break out of fields in their search for feed and gain access to gardens and potentially become poisoned by ornamental plants most commonly Pieris spp, rhododendron and yew. As grazing becomes scarce animals may turn to bracken. Blue green algal blooms on lakes and ponds can be lethal. The Environment Agency issues alerts when blooms are seen, but they can occur in very small water bodies.

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**Photosensitisation and Sunburn**

Primary photosensitisation occurs due to the ingestion of lush green plants containing photodynamic agents, such as St John's Wort (Hypericum perforatum) or Bog Asphodel (Nartheceum ossifragum). Secondary photosensitisation is the most common type seen in animals and occurs due to liver or bile duct damage, most often as a result of ingestion of hepatotoxic plants such as Ragwort (Senecio jacobea). Direct exposure to UV radiation can damage the skin in cattle, sheep, pigs and horses with light colouration.

**ON GOING WORMING OFFER - SAVE 25%**

Buy a years supply (four treatments) of worming tablets for your dog or cat and receive a **25% discount**.

Date for the diary...

**Chagford Show  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018**

We will be the duty vets again this year for Chagford Show with Ulli Arnold in attendance.

Come and visit our promotional stand near the main ring for a drink & a piece of cake.

Bring along your FREE farm client prize draw ticket from the bottom of this newsletter to be entered in our show draw. **FIRST THREE entrants on the day (made in person) will receive a Moorgate Baseball Cap.**

You could win.....

- 1st Prize – £30.00 Moorgate Voucher
- 2nd Prize – £20.00 Moorgate Voucher
- 3rd Prize - £10.00 Moorgate Voucher



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**FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE**

**TELEPHONE : 01647  
440441**

**Moorgate Veterinary Group at Chagford Show  
FARM CLIENT FREE PRIZE DRAW**

NAME.....  
FARM NAME.....  
CONTACT NUMBER:.....

Place your ticket in the draw box on the Moorgate Promotional Stand at Chagford Show

*The draw will take place at Chagford Show at 4.30pm. Draw is only open to existing farm clients.  
Draw is not open to staff or their immediate family members*



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