

Dear Farmer,

Can we start off by thanking everyone who attended our winter housing of cattle talk at the Union, Moretonhampstead on 9th October. We would also like to show our appreciation to our sponsors Zoetis and Norbrook and thank James Fewings and Steve Bull for their time. We hope those attending found the talks informative and took away ideas of how to make their herd healthier and more profitable. This newsletter contains a summary of the items discussed for clients who were unable to attend. Our vets would be happy to discuss these topics further, just give us a call. If farmers who attended on the night have any questions then please feel free to ask. Remember that we won't charge you anything for our advice!

SAVE £120.00 ON SUBSIDISED LABORATORY TESTING

Have your spring born suckler calves had problems with pneumonia this year? If yes then consider taking advantage of Zoetis' subsidised serology tests.

Zoetis will subsidise serology tests on 5 calves per farm. Tests included are for BVD, IBR, RSV, PI3 and Mycoplasma Bovis. The total laboratory cost per calf is £14.00 (£70 +VAT in total – normally £190.20 + VAT).

Our vets will discuss with you which 5 calves will make good clinical candidates and will arrange a visit to take blood samples (this can be done at your annual TB test). The calves must be aged over 4 months and up to 12 months – ideally over 5-6 months old once the maternal antibodies' have dropped.



TB TESTING

A message from Debbie Hill: "Having just completed my first year of booking in your TB tests I must say a HUGE THANK YOU for your patience and kind words. You have helped a lot by pre-thinking your testing plans with the majority of you giving lots of notice thereby getting the days you want. To those of you who don't, to avoid disappointment, please can you join the majority. There are some vacancies (but not many) until the end of the year and today I have even booked in tests for Jan, Feb, March!"

LAMBING CLUB

Have you heard about our lambing club?

Join today and save £££

- **All lambings seen during our opening hours are FREE**
This includes prolapses as a result of pregnancy/birth and inductions.
- **All lambings seen out of hours are HALF PRICE**
This also includes prolapses as a result of pregnancy/birth and inductions.
- **All Ewe Caesareans are HALF PRICE**
- **10% Discount on the lambing supplies**
Lambing ropes, lubricants, disinfectants, colostrum & lamb feeders

Drug and Visits fees are charged as normal. All discounts will be applied once membership has been paid in full.

Annual Membership Fees:

Based on the previous years usage

Less than 8 lambings, caesars or prolapses	£50.00 + VAT
8 or more	£100.00 + VAT

For more information or to sign up speak to Ashley or Lottie.

LAMBING COURSE

Following the success of previous years lambing courses we will be running another lambing course

Date: 17th Dec 2014

Time: 1pm

Venue: To be confirmed – number dependent

The course will be held by Ashley Rubens for smallholders and new farmers who want to expand their knowledge for the coming lambing season.

The course will be two hours long and will cost £25 including a full set of notes. Reduced to £20 for those who have previously purchased course notes.

Please contact Lottie on 01626 833023 to register your interests.

FARMER'S MEETING ON WINTER HOUSING - SUMMARY

We were pleased to be joined by so many of our farming clients at our meeting on 'Winter Housing' at the start of October. Ashley gave a short talk on parasite control at housing time, highlighting the importance of timing fluke dosing correctly. James Fewings from Zoetis gave a talk on respiratory disease control highlighting prevention.

The new 'SureCalf' scheme was introduced which helps buyers source vaccinated calves, and sellers can get a premium for their animals at sale, we think this looks to be a very good way to improve calf health and farm profits!

Parasite control at housing is aimed at protecting from the effects of internal parasites like fluke and worms, and external parasites such as lice and mites.

Worm control is important throughout the grazing season to prevent worm scour, but type II worm disease where worms are dormant over the winter in the animal and mature in the spring and erupt into the gut in large numbers causing significant disease was also discussed. Treating youngstock at housing with a product effective against these encysted worms will prevent this.

Liver fluke is a recognized problem in the area, and we discussed the difficulty in treating when different products have effects on different ages of fluke, so it is important to time your treatment to avoid missing immature fluke in the animal which will then go onto cause problems. For example if you treat with Closamectin you should do this 7 weeks *after* housing. We also talked about testing cattle in herds which have not previously identified a problem with liver fluke.

Most skin parasites will become much more of a problem when animals are housed as they are in close contact and in their winter coat. It was pointed out that the irritation caused can reduce feeding times and therefore growth rates quite significantly, up to 20%!

Respiratory disease was discussed as a multifactorial problem, where a poor environment or poor calf health "unlocks the door". Viruses such as PI3 are said to "open the door" and then let in serious infections like *Pasteurella* to cause the classic signs of pneumonia.

Ventilation was discussed, especially with reference to shed designs and James showed some slides of different problems, emphasising the need for an adequate air outlet at the top of the building, and inlets below the eaves at least 2.5x the area of the outlet. It is also important to maintain a dry environment in the sheds and try to avoid different age groups sharing the same airspace.

The viruses which can cause respiratory disease often do so by damaging the protective mechanism of the lungs allowing bacteria to cause infection. Viruses cannot be treated by antibiotics, but vaccinating will improve animals ability to fight off the virus without it causing any problems. We discussed the different vaccines available for animals of different ages, and the different combinations of viruses that might be present on a farm. The intranasal vaccine for young calves was discussed.

Treating pneumonia cases is aimed at minimizing losses which are already occurring, whereas preventing pneumonia stops those losses from starting, and more and more rearers are recognising this. Zoetis have introduced the "SureCalf" schemes, where calves are certified as having been properly vaccinated before sale. Recent market data has shown these animals to get prices of £20-45 more than unvaccinated stock!



If anyone would like to plan treatments for their cattle at housing or pneumonia control then please contact the surgery and speak to one of the vets. Remember we aim to beat online and large multiple retailers on price for vaccines and wormers so it's always worth ringing to check our prices!

Practice Facilities

24 Hour Emergency Service
Disease Treatments
Disease Prevention
Pregnancy Diagnosis
Synchronisation of Oestrus
Herd & Flock Health Plans
Tuberculin Testing
Castrations
Dehorning

BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

Mill House, Station Road,
Bovey Tracey, Newton
Abbot, TQ13 9AL
TELEPHONE ; 01626 833023

MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,
Moretonhampstead,
Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG
TELEPHONE ; 01647 440441

CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,
Exeter, EX6 7NS
For appointments/repeat
prescriptions etc. telephone;
01626 833023

**FOR OUT OF HOUR
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