

Case Study: Calf born 51 days early



Gradually Teasel's muscle strength improved and she now takes Sophie for walks rather than the other way around!

Teasel has continued to go from strength to strength. She has had a case of pneumonia but along with her strong survival instincts and excellent care she is now as big as calves the same age and is being weaned. She will hopefully stay on the farm as a breeding heifer and as she is so well trained may enter a few shows over the coming years so you may well see her about.

Kate Sadler

Meet Teasel. She is a red Holstein heifer calf who has had an eventful start to life.

Teasel was born back in September an incredible 51 days early!

Originally due on 24th October, Richard was not expecting to find her when he went out to get the cows in from the field. Often when calves are born that prematurely their lungs are not ready to breathe air and they do not survive.

Luckily despite being premature she seemed to be breathing ok and she was promptly taken in looked after by Dee who fed her every 3 hours through the night and day. She was given a dog coat to keep warm as she was too tiny for a calf jacket and put in a calf hutch.

Sophie took over caring for her and halter trained Teasel so she could take her for little walks to build her muscle strength as she was initially very weak.



Teasel today



January 2019 Edition

Farm Newsletter



Directors Focus “

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2019 ”

I hope Father Christmas brought you everything you wanted this Christmas and now you are keenly embracing the New Year. With a long wet winter followed by a long dry summer, 2018 proved extremely challenging in many ways – but then doesn't every year present its own unique challenges? If it was easy everyone would be in farming wouldn't they? It takes a certain type of determined individual to embrace the day to day, and year to year of such a "career choice!" What challenges will 2019 bring I wonder?

At Shepton Vets we want to always be in a position to support you in the future. We aim to do this by continuing to provide great service, offering competitively priced medicines and coming up with new ways to help your stock stay healthy and productive. Our new "mastDecide" service which helps you decide how to treat a clinical case of mastitis is one such offering. The development of our new small ruminant consulting room here at the practice is another. This will allow clients to bring in sheep

for lambing, calves to be dripped or operated on and smallholders to have their animals examined here at the practice if required. Strengthening our team with Veronica a new TB tester will also help us support you with the ongoing issue of TB.

Whatever challenges the New Year brings, I hope we are all ready to embrace them and wish you all a happy and prosperous 2019.

Oliver Tilling

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Office opening hours

Monday – Friday: 8am—5.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am—12pm

Emergency Service

We provide a 24 hour emergency service.

If you need assistance out of our normal working hours, please telephone

01749 341 761

If you would like to receive your farm account and this newsletter by email please advise the farm office.



Community Focus

Medicine Deliveries & Collections

Would you like the convenience of having your medicines delivered to your door? Our subscription service can help.

A weekly delivery costs £7.50 per month or a one-off delivery charge is £5. Call Jo in the pharmacy for details.

Collections:

Pre-ordered medicines can be collected from:

Wells Vets—each weekday between 3pm –6pm

Frome Cattle Market—every Wednesday

Collections from the market are free for clients that order by 5pm - on Tuesday. Please note that this is for pre-ordered medicines only.

Events & Training Calendar

BVD Control
25th January 2019

Lambing Workshop
30th January 2019

Mid-Somerset Agricultural Society Ploughing Match
17th February 2019

BVD Control & Biosecurity
22nd February 2019

MilkSure Course Day 1
27th February 2019

Email:
training@sheptonvets.com for more information or to book a space.

Vicki gains an SQP Advisor Qualification

Congratulations to Vicki in the Farm Office who has recently qualified as an L-SQP (suitably qualified person).

An SQP is a professional Level 4 qualification whereby the qualified person is entitled to prescribe and supply certain veterinary medicines under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

This allows the practice to

increase the client care focus by having an “animal medicines advisor” on site to give product advice including safe and effective use of medicines.

Vicki will work alongside the vets and can advise on the prevention, management and treatment of endemic disease caused by internal or external parasites and on the use of some vaccines.

Herd Health / Flock Plans

Up-to-date Herd or Flock Health Plans are a mandatory requirement for any Red Tractor Assurance inspection and must now include a review of antibiotic usage.

Although historically viewed as a ‘tick-box exercise’ to meet inspectors demands, a Health Plan Review meeting provides an ideal opportunity for vet and client to sit down away from the livestock and discuss performance, medicine usage, vaccination and parasite control programmes and any other on-farm issues which require attention. The practice aim is to make the most of these

opportunities to plan with clients how and where we can best work together to optimise farm performance and target appropriate medicine usage for your stock over the coming 12 months – and ensure that the box does get ticked!

We will be contacting clients to book in review meetings where we are aware that these are due.

If you know that your Health Plan requires attention then please contact the office to book a vet appointment – if possible before you get the call notifying you of an imminent inspection!

January Vaccine Orders

Order your herd vaccines by the 31st January and you can spread the cost over 3 months!

We are now taking orders for :
BVD / Spirovac / IBR Live & Inactive / Huskvac

Don't forget if you pay by Direct Debit, you can get a 5% discount off all medicines and vaccines.

Speak to Jo in the pharmacy to discuss your requirements.

Farmer Focus:

Steve and Annette Bevan began keeping sheep on the family farm in 2010. Steve had had a passion for rearing sheep since he was younger and together they have grown their flock. From putting their first 20 ewes to ram their first year to 80 the following year. Then from 80 - 200 ewes, and they are now farming over 400 ewes.



The ewes are a mixture of Texel cross breeds and Suffolk x Mules. Initially they used a Charollais ram, but have since swapped to Texel and Beltex rams. This has provided them with a hardier lamb and improved carcass confirmation. They typically lamb in two groups with the first starting at the end of February and the second at the end of March. This year they have organised a comparison between the two breeds of ram to see which produce the better lamb.

Their continuing efforts have paid off as in 2018 they won reserve champion live and dead with a Beltex cross lamb and in 2017 they won champion alive and reserve champion dead lamb at the Bath and West Show. They fatten all their own lambs and depending on their live weight the majority go to a local butcher, while the rest go either to abattoir or market.

Steve and Annette have been successful in growing their business in such a short space of time because they run an organised farm with very good management. They are also well informed about flock welfare and have been able to manage any disease problems they have encountered through timely investigation and appropriate vaccination.

Their aim is to continue to produce high quality lamb and to continue to grow their family business.

Looking forward to seeing lambs in the field in a few months time!



Kate Sadler

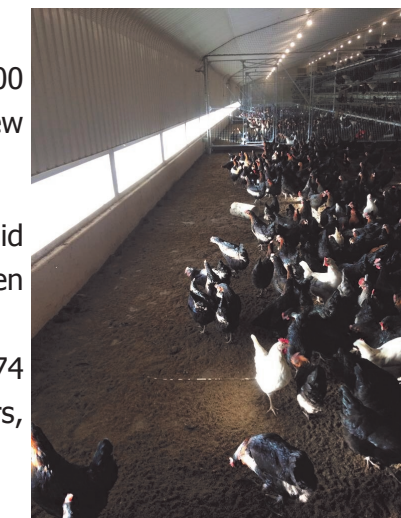
“ Team Shepton: Anna Patch

Last November, 9 days after getting back from honeymoon I helped unload 16000 chickens before work. These were our first flock of chickens and the start of a new egg laying enterprise at my husbands farm.

We have just completed the first full cycle, depopulating the shed in mid December. With the help of a team from Lincolnshire the shed has now been cleaned out and disinfected ready for the new flock of birds arriving in January.

The chickens have largely done what they were supposed to, laying around 274 eggs per bird. We had a mixed flock of Burford Browns and Cotswold Legbars, supplying Stonegate with coloured eggs for their Clarence Court range.

These breeds of chickens are the heritage breeds of the industry, they are not as productive as a modern brown hybrid. They are “characterful” chickens - prone to broodiness, aggression and not laying their eggs in the lovely nest boxes provided. However, we have signed up for a second flock, at least this time we know what to expect! We are in the process of making a few modifications to the shed and are managing to fit in a few days away before doing it all again!



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