

Training Courses

March

Mastering Meds—Thursday 3rd March

April

DIY AI — Wednesday 27th April — Friday 29th April

May

Cow First Aid — Wednesday 18th May

July

Calving Course — Wednesday 6th July
DIY AI — Wednesday 27th July — Friday 29th July

August

Mastering Meds — Thursday 4th August

October

Herdsperson Course — Wednesday 19th October-
Thursday 20th October.

Huskvac

Huskvac is a live, lungworm vaccine we can use in autumn born suckler calves given before their first grazing season or spring born calves before their second grazing season. It is used to help animals build up immunity to lungworm and reduces our reliance on wormers. Animals require 2 doses of this oral vaccine 4 weeks apart, to be completed 2 weeks before turn out.

Our Vet Techs can come out and help you administer the vaccine, we only charge a £5 visit fee for this service, please contact the office to find out more.

Anna

February 2022
Edition



Farm Newsletter

TB or not TB: CHECS TB Accredited Herd Scheme

A number of clients who have been fortunate enough to have been TB free for a year or more have become members in order to stay on annual testing. This is following the introduction of mandatory 6 month testing for all farms in High Risk Areas. Earned recognition allows farms to stay on annual testing.

Some clarification of the Scheme rules was required before clients could be enrolled and it is proving more complicated and longwinded than our training indicated.

Enrolling your herd today still requires processing of your farm information by both CHECS and APHA. At present until this is completed the next test may be allocated. Once a test is allocated it must go ahead to avoid restrictions. We have challenged this but no response so far.

Some clients have painfully discovered that APHA have issued test instructions and not processed the earned recognition, requiring an unexpected test. We have asked APHA for greater clarity on the process.

The best time to enrol your herd in this Scheme is immediately after it has tested clear. You can of course apply to enrol at any time but your exemption to test every 12 months might not come into play until your next test has been completed. It is best to consider CHECS TB membership as a long term plan, similar to serving a cow today to get a calf and a new lactation 9 months later.

If testing at certain times of the year suits your business, consider enrolling your herd in CHECS TB so that you can keep your preference. CHECS TB costs 1 hour of vet time plus a visit and 45 mins vet time for annual renewals if you come to the surgery. There is an annual payment of £35 to CHECS.

Please phone the practice if you want to know more and ask to speak to Alex, Lottie or myself.

Ralph Drouin

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Med Line, Text or Whatsapp: 07592 307 394

Office opening hours

Monday – Friday: 8am—5.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am—12.30pm

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.



Shepton Vets Young Farmers Rally

We kicked off the start of our Centenary celebration at the end of January with our Shepton Veterinary Young Farmers Rally.

Local clubs entered 9 teams to compete at various veterinary station! We tested their knowledge and practical skills on various topics including bovine fertility and lameness, sheep obstetrics and caring for an injured farm Collie.

At the practice we have various training tools, such as our AI training cow, we have affectionally named her Kim K. She contains a cervix and a window which allows trainers to visualize what students are up too. Breeding Betsy our Beltex Ewe; she is used for teaching lambing. She contains a pelvis, which we position lambs inside for students to practice manipulating.

All the young farmers took on the various task with great enthusiasm and much skill. It was a tough competition and there was very little difference in points between the top 3. 3rd place went to Wells and Glastonbury, 2nd place went to Polden Hills. The overall Winner of our first Veterinary Rally was Wincanton Young Farmers Club.

Wincanton took home the winners Cheque of £100 for their club. We will also be sponsoring T-shirt embroidery for Wincanton next Young Farmers Event.

Ben Miller, Chairman of the winning Wincanton YFC team said: "It was a really enjoyable educational and social experience with well thought out task stations.

It was great being able to get together again after the past 2 years, and some of the members present are long-standing - even going back several generations - clients of the practice, so it was good to be part of their centenary celebrations.

And of course, we are over the moon that we won!"

Bibby

More Milk In The Tank

Farm Disease Management Protocols

All sick cows/calves to have temperature, hydration status, appetite, dung and demeanour assessed
If cow is <60 DIM, a ketone test should be carried out also

Mild to Moderate Mastitis							
Medicine/Treatment	How Much	How Often	Route	How long	Milk Withdrawal	Meat Withdrawal	
Mild, first cases	Ketofan	1ml/3kg	Once daily	IV or IM	1-3 days	0 hours	IV 1 days IM 4days
	(+/) Oxytocin 5 (to aid milk let down)	2ml	Prior to milking	IM	While mastitis treatment continues	0 hours	0 hours
	Udder Mint	Apply liberally to udder skin					
Moderate cases or mild cases failing to cure	Metacam	1ml/40kg	Once	SC	Single dose	120 hours	15 days
	(+/) Oxytocin 5 (to aid milk let down)	2ml	Prior to milking	IM	While mastitis treatment continues	0 hours	0 hours
	Udder Mint	Apply liberally to udder skin					
Udoxolan	1 Tube per affected u.	Once daily	IMM	1-2 days	5 days	10 days	

Severe Mastitis							
Medicine/Treatment	How much	How Often	Route	How long	Milk Withdrawal	Meat Withdrawal	
Abioxis	1ml/25kg	Once daily	IV or IM	1-3 days	IV 24hrs IM 36hrs	IV 10 days IM 31 days	
(+/) Oxytocin 5 (to aid milk let down)	2ml	Prior to milking	IM	While mastitis treatment continues	0 hours	0 days	
Udoxolan	1 Tube per affected u.	Once daily	IMM	1-2 days	5 days	10 days	
Oral Fluids + Electrolytes (Restore)	400g in 20L of warm water	1-2 times per day	Orally	If necessary up to 3 days	0 hours	0 days	
Quatco	1ml/30kg	Once daily	IM or IV	3-5 days	48 hrs	12 days	
Udder Mint	Apply liberally to udder skin						

Vet Tech—Disbuds

As part of the vet tech service, myself and the other vet techs have carried out a large number of disbuds over the past months. It is a service that has increased greatly since I started working at Shepton Vets, and we have seen positive effects on calf health and welfare as a result.

The disbudding service that we offer is a stress-free way of removing horn buds in young calves. Sedation is used, as well as local anaesthetic and systemic, long-lasting pain relief. This ensures that the process is stress-free for the calf, and also minimizes the negative effects on weight gain that calves can experience during stressful events such as de-horning/disbudding, castrating and weaning. Pain and stress can directly impact feed intake, and therefore affect growth. The process of disbudding is conducted in a methodological, structured way by a team of experienced technicians, meaning you save time and money getting the job done and ensure the best experience for calves during this procedure. We leave a clear record of which calves have

been disbudded along with the amount of medicines and

We have undergone a number of medicine changes over the last few years, whilst also altering the way in which we use medicines to keep ahead of ever-changing industry standards. Now more than ever it is important that these medicines are used efficiently, not only for animal health reasons but also to ensure that the amount of discarded milk is minimised; whether this is through avoiding unnecessary treatment (as may be the case for some incidents of mastitis), switching to zero withdrawal anti-inflammatories/antibiotics where appropriate, or changing dosage regimens to ensure total withdrawal days are the lowest they can be (using long acting dosing rather than daily dosing, for example) - ensuring that you have refined treatment protocols to follow will undoubtedly save you money by less discarded milk.

If this is an area that you feel your farm could tighten-up on, please speak with your routine vet about refining treatment protocols.

Charlie

batch numbers used, making medicine records easy to complete.

This service is offered to calves between the ages of 2 weeks and 6 months. If this is something you would be interested in or would like more information about, please speak to myself or one of the other technicians (Ray or Jade) or phone the farm office. We are happy to provide this service to you and your calves!

Tom



At this months clinical club in a barn



Rosie shared her knowledge with the team on sustainable parasite control ahead of our Pilton Discussion group meeting.

We discussed how worming cattle routinely with longer acting products can interfere with animals ability to develop good immunity to many parasites. This can result in disease in older, milking cows when we would expect them to be immune. Residues from wormers can be damaging to the environment, in particular the dung beetle meaning there are an increasing number of reasons to think about how we worm our animals.

Practical alternatives to these products exist and we have a number of tools at our finger tips that avoid using wormers routinely. Using Huskvac, managing pasture, worm egg counts and assessing fluke risk on farms can all reduce our use of wormers.

Anna

Planning for the grazing season

Lungworm.

Lungworm was a considerable problem for several our grazing dairy and beef clients in 2021.

Presentation

Lungworm presents very differently depending on the age and immunity of the animal affected. In dairy cows we commonly get coughing in the parlour, reduced milk yield and weight loss. This can progress to secondary bacterial pneumonia in which cows will commonly develop a temperature. We also know that lungworm can be associated with reactivation of previous IBR infections which can complicate the picture in some herds. We commonly find the 1st calving heifers are more severely affected depending on their level of immunity.

In naive dairy youngstock and beef calves we can get coughing, fast laboured breathing, weight loss and death. In some outbreaks with a particularly high pasture burden the calves can die with few signs seen by the farmer.

How is lungworm spread?

Lungworm larvae are eaten by cattle, they penetrate through the body from the gastrointestinal tract and travel to the lungs. In the lungs they develop through to the adult stages. In the adult stages the females lay eggs, these are coughed up by the cow, swallowed and passed in the faeces. The final stage of maturation is done in the cow pat, the larvae spread is helped by a fungus which can help expel the larvae up to 10 feet from the cow pat.

Prevention and treatment

We have seen severe problems in herds in which cattle have had little immunity to lungworm and have had a large challenge. Every herd/case is different but we have seen some herds that have used long acting wormers in youngstock over the summer months and calves have not therefore not developed immunity. We know that animals need a full grazing season of exposure to gain immunity to lungworm. Strategic worming and lungworm vaccination strategies will vary depending on your farm risk but are worth reviewing ready for 2022.



Lungworm in a cow at post-mortem

Rob

Trace element profiling in your beef or dairy herd.

Last year we saw a larger number of problems that were attributable to trace element deficiencies in herds. Ranging from outbreaks of still births, to calf health and mortality problems, and poor fertility. We saw this in both beef and dairy herds. In a lot of our dairy herds that are using a heavily grass based system it is not unusual for heifers or stale cows to have inadequate supplementation provided.

Trace element availability in both grass and forage is altered by lots of factors including soil type, pH, geology, drainage, plant type and weather, and it is thought that maybe the mild wetter winters have caused an increase in these cases with mineral leaching from soils.

We usually blood sample a group of 6-12 animals that have been on a stable diet for a period of time, most commonly late dry animals or if we are looking at younger animals bulling heifers. Certainly, in a grass based beef suckler system we would recommend annual sampling to monitor. For more information take a look at our Shepton Talking Beef Newsletter this month.

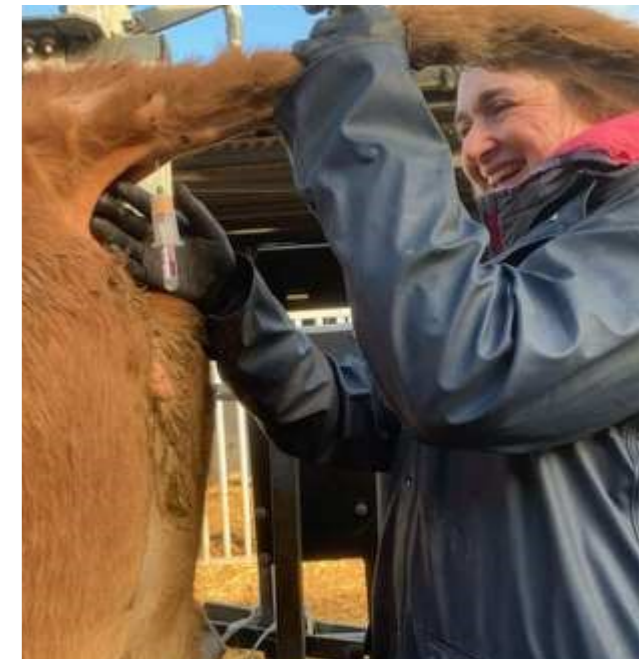
Alex

BVD Youngstock Screening

BVD is one of the most infectious diseases that we deal with in farm animal practice. Control relies on removing infected animals, then maintaining full vaccination and other biosecurity measures. But effective control also requires good levels of vigilance to spot any infection that has managed to breach your farm's defenses. Every year we find herds where infection has managed to sneak back in, often through purchasing infected animals or having neighboring animals come into close contact with your herd via break-ins/out of stock. The more regularly we monitor a herd for signs of infection coming in, the easier it is to identify where it may have come from and to remove it without any serious herd health consequences.

To monitor herds, we often do bulk milk testing throughout the year but it is also important to do a screen of youngstock every 12 months as this is often be the first place disease is found. Because BVD is so infectious we only need to test 6 animals from each group of youngsters between 9 and 15 months old. Often this testing can be fitted alongside other tasks on farm rather than needing a specific visit, making it a very cost-effective screening.

To book your annual BVD youngstock screen, talk to your routine vet, or give the office a call.



Lottie