

January 2022 Edition



# Farm Newsletter



We are now past the shortest day of Winter and a New Year is upon us; a very special year for Shepton Vets, as it marks our 100th year of providing veterinary services to the local community - no mean feat for any veterinary practice, but one that is still independently owned and run makes it all the more special.

To mark the centenary, we will be putting on events throughout the year including (but not limited to!) educational tours, charity fundraisers, the launch of new initiatives and of course, a great big party to celebrate with you, our clients and friends that have helped to shape Shepton Vets over the years.

We unfortunately still find ourselves in the grips of Coronavirus, so please keep an eye out for newsletters, flyers and social media posts that will detail any upcoming events and changes we may have to make throughout the year.

I wish you a great 2022, and look forward to seeing you at our centenary celebrations!

**Charlie**

## Shepton Vets Herdsperson Course

At the start of December, we were delighted to run another herdsperson course. We were grateful to use the brilliant facilities at Worthy Farm, with a keen group of delegates including one who had travelled all the way from Cornwall.

**Day 1** kicked off with Bibby speaking on calving and cow first aid, and this was followed by Charlie speaking on milking routines and mastitis. Paddy then rounded off the day with a fresh cow care lecture. The day ended with a meal at The Thatch in Shepton.

**Day 2** started off with Rosie covering fertility, followed by Emily discussing calf rearing and management. I had the graveyard shift at the end of the last day, where we discussed mobility scoring, the economics of lameness, the Dutch 5 step method, lesion recognition and digital dermatitis.

Thank you to all that attended the course for being so enthusiastic and engaging, the vets really enjoyed delivering the course and discussing experiences of the attendees from their own farms.



Practical component of the calving and cow first aid section, including blood sampling cows, checking for a DA's, ketone testing on blood and milk and sampling down cows.



**Rob**

Charlie discussing milking routines

# Pilton Discussion Group



Treating whole groups of animals routinely with wormer particularly with long-acting products is commonplace in our industry; however, are you aware of the potential risks when employing this strategy?

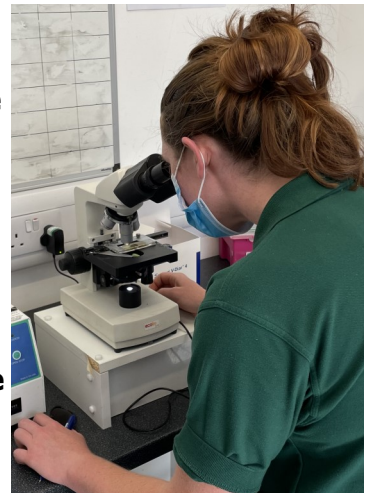
Regular routine treatment or treatment with long-acting products in the short term seem like the simplest and easiest solution to management of youngstock at grass, but by choosing the same product and using it each year, we greatly increase the chance of development of resistance to that product.

Over-reliance on anthelmintics can also prevent youngstock developing immunity to worms and husk. If animals are not allowed to develop an immunity each year with exposure ("acquired immunity"), they are susceptible to disease. This is often the case when we

see outbreaks of lungworm in the grazed dairy herd, and we drill back into the youngstock worming regime. Finally, the unnecessary use of anthelmintics is costly, and excessive worming treatment has an impact on agricultural environmental biodiversity.

As you can tell above, there are lots of reasons for reviewing and reconsidering your approach to parasite control in your herd. We would like to invite you to the **Pilton club on Tuesday the 1st of February** to join us for supper and to discuss the principals of sustainable parasite control, including; how to identify farms risks, choosing the most appropriate treatments based on monitoring and diagnostic tests and ways to avoid resistance within your herd, as well as looking at how these principles can have positive effects on the biodiversity on your farm.

**If you would like to attend, please contact the office to confirm your place as soon you can as we may have to limit attendees to remain COVID safe.**



Rosie

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## Meds Updates...

### Change Of Product

**1.** We have now switched away from **Mastdecide** and on to **Vetoslide** from Vetoquinol for rapid mastitis culture on farm.

VetoSlide offers many advantages:

- It is simpler to use; there is a sterile swab and a double-sided plate for each test, which can be stored any-way- up and at room temperature for up to 6 months.
- Better accuracy as rather than a colour change, it uses colony growth on two growth media.

On the Gram-negative plate, you can differentiate between E. Coli and other Gram negatives, and if there is growth on both sides you can see that sample is contaminated.

VetoSlide doesn't come with sterile sample pots, but these will be supplied with your order.

For those who are Mastdecide users we are on hand to provide further training on VetoSlide and review your current mastitis treatment protocols to ensure your using the correct treatments depending on the results.

For those who are interested in on farm rapid culture get in touch with your routine vet to find out more.

**2.** Unfortunately **Zeleris** is unavailable with no guaranteed date for its return so we have decided to replace this with **Fenflor**, a generic Florfenicol like Zeleris however Fenflor **does not** contain any anti inflammatory, Metacam should be given alongside this product to calves with pneumonia. The dose rate of Fenflor is 2ml/15Kg SC once, meat withdrawal 44 days, not to be used in animals producing milk for human consumption.

We are stocking **Draxxin Plus** which contains an anti inflammatory (Ketaprofen) and a longer acting antibiotic (Tulathromycin), this is available in 50ml and 100ml bottles. The dose rate for this product is 1ml/40KG under the skin once, meat withdrawal 50 days, not to be used in animals producing milk for human consumption.

Please get in touch if you are struggling with calves with pneumonia or to speak to one of the vets about these changes.

# Lambing Update

Lambing time is fast approaching, or for some early lambers, just beginning. As vets, historically we haven't been as involved on farm prior to lambing as much as we would like to be. Many of us on the farm team are enthusiastic about sheep farming are very keen to work with you to help improve lambing success on your farm.



## Preparation is key.

Ewes should be fully vaccinated against clostridial diseases and pasteurellosis. Booster doses should be given 4-6 weeks prior to lambing. If it is the ewes first time being vaccinated, then the first dose should be given 8 weeks before lambing and a second dose given 4 weeks before lambing. This is to ensure a good level of antibodies are available in the colostrum for the lambs protection.

Scanning of ewes 60-90 days before lambing allows you to know and group ewes according to the number of lambs they are carrying. This helps massively with ewe management and feeding. Body condition scoring ewes at the same time as scanning helps even further to group the ewes and better manage their needs. Correct nutrition management in the pregnant ewe is vital to a successful lambing season. Ewes with inadequate nutrition

are more likely to suffer with twin lamb disease, hypocalcemia, inadequate colostrum and have either small lambs or very large lambs in the case of overfed singles leading to birth difficulties.

Lambing environment is also important to a successful lambing season. Cleanliness is essential, especially as we should not be using prophylactic antibiotics in every lamb such as Spectam which is not readily available this year.

We are offering pre lambing flock visits this year to help you plan for a successful lambing. We can come visit your farm get to know your system and help if needed with nutrition analysis, vaccination schedules, disease control and managing lamb mortality. Don't forget we also have the small ruminant consulting room at the practice. So, to save on a visit fee you can bring individual ewes to us for help when needed.

We would really like to be more involved with our sheep farmers, so please don't hesitate to get in touch for a chat.

**Please check out the Shepton talking sheep newsletter where we delve into these topics in our lambing edition. Please contact Charlotte at the practice if you would like a copy.**



**Kate**

## 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.

**Anna**

## COVID Update

As COVID cases are on the rise again we would like to reassure you that all members of staff and students are taking lateral flow tests twice a week in order to minimise any impact COVID could have on our business and yours.

If there are any suspected or confirmed COVID cases on farm and you are due a visit from a vet or vet tech please call the farm office ASAP so we can ensure that our staff are equipped with the relevant PPE to carry out the visit safely or to rearrange any non urgent visits.

Please be assured that we want to be able to continue as normal with all visits, training and centenary events in the safest way possible for everyone.

**Charlotte**

## YFC Rally at Shepton

We are starting to get ready for our very own YF Rally. We want local clubs to complete in veterinary related activities, around Bovine fertility, Ovine Obstetrics and Cat & Dog first aid!

Each club will be awarded points for how well they complete each task. The club with overall highest point will win the Rally. The winning club will be awarded £100 Cash for their club and £100 sponsorship towards polo shirts embroidery for their next event.

We won't send you home hungry... you'll have a pasty on us too!

If you know of any young farmers clubs that would like to enter. We are looking for teams of around 5-7 members please contact Charlotte at the practice.

# Dates for your diary

## Lambing Workshop

**Monday 24th January 2022 7pm-9pm**

This workshop is aimed at smallholders and novice sheep keepers to give you the knowledge of how best to manage your ewes before lambing, what equipment you might need and it will provide information around common problems encountered at lambing time. You will also be able to practice delivering lambs on our lambing ewe "Betsy the Beltex".

**£30 +VAT**

## YFC Rally Event

**Monday 31st January 2022**

Please see Bibby's article in this newsletter.

## Mastering Medicines

**Thursday 27th January 2022 11am-2pm**

This course a red tractor approved medicine course focusing on the correct usage of medicines on farm.

**£50 +VAT**

## Pilton Discussion Group—Sustainable Parasite Control

**Tuesday 1st February 2022 7.30pm**

Please see Rosie's article in this newsletter.

## DIY AI Course

**Wednesday 9th February—Friday 11th February**

**10am—3pm**

Charlie and Anna will be running this course which will give delegates a licenced AI certificate. The course includes a follow-up meeting on your farm a month after the course to check progress. Places are limited, please call practice ASAP if you are interested.

**£550 + VAT**

## Have you herd about our new "Meds Line"?

Have you *herd* that we now have a "Meds line"? This means that you don't have to wait for the farm office to be open, you can order any time of any day that suits you!

What do you need to know?

- Medicine orders will be ready between **09:30-17:30 Mon to Fri** and **09:00-12:30 Sat**
- All orders by text must allow **30 mins before collection.**
- All orders received **after 17:30 Mon-Fri will be ready by 09:30 the following day.**
- Any orders received **after 12:30 on a Saturday and on a Sunday will be ready by 09:30 on the following Monday**

When placing your medicine order:

- Contact number for Text or Whatsapp Medicine ordering: **07592 307394** Please include;

Account Surname, Farm Name, Collection time if same day, then medicines and quantity followed by End

Example: *Smith, Shepton Vets Farm, 11am, Metacam x 2, Ubroseal Herd Pack x 1. End*

**Please note this contact number is for text and WhatsApp messaging medicine orders only.**

**Vin**

### Shepton Veterinary Group Ltd

**Allyn Saxon Drive**

**Shepton Mallet**

**Somerset**

**BA4 5QH**

Tel: 01749 341 761

Email: [farm.animal@sheptonvets.com](mailto:farm.animal@sheptonvets.com)

[www.sheptonvets.com](http://www.sheptonvets.com)

### 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

