

September Farm News



Mid-Somerset Show

Despite the weather, it was another successful year for the Mid-Somerset Show. We had a great weekend, starting with the pre-show party on Friday and a busy day chatting to clients on Sunday. The practice stand was busy and included a mock cow for children to rectal with a bag of sweets as a prize. All the children had a great time putting on their rectal gloves to delve into the cow, it was a fun way to encourage the next generation of vets and farmers. It was great to see so many clients and friends on the day, and congratulations to those of you who won classes and participated in the showing.



We will be attending the Frome Show on 10th September, sharing a stand with Bellevue Vets. Stop by and say hello if you are there for the day.

Dairy Show—5th October

The Dairy Show returns to the Bath & West next month, our stand will be next to the Show Ring as usual. Please come along for a chat with the team and join us for a Ploughman's lunch from 12.30pm. We look forward to seeing many of you on the day.

At 2.30pm XLVets will be running 3 short presentations in the lecture theatre, featuring all the best bits from the XLVets Farmer Conference. Speakers from three XLVets practice will be discussing:

Transition health with Paddy Gordon; Lameness control with Jon Reader and Calf health with Anthony Wilkinson

The BVDFree England Scheme launched on 1st July. This is the first national scheme in England, with the aim of eliminating BVD from all cattle herds by 2022. The Scheme uses a simple four step approach to achieve this objective, using the 'ADAM' principles:

Assess the level of biosecurity and disease risk on your farm

Define the BVD status of your herd

Act to remove BVD from your farm and/or to make sure you stay free

Monitor progress with an annual status check

A BVDFree database has been set up to allow the negative BVD status of your animals to be displayed. You can also check the BVD status of animals available for purchase, to prevent BVD infection to your herd.

We find some calf buyers are already insisting on calves of known status. Tag and test can tell you about individuals but talk to us about herd status and progressing to BVDFree status.

If you have any further queries regarding BVDFree, please contact Lottie or Alex at the surgery.



Dates for your Diary

21st September: Dutch Foot Trimming course

5th October: Dairy Show Bitesize XLVets Seminar 2-30pm for one hour in the Lecture Theatre

17th – 20th October : DIY AI Course—Somerset

For more details about our training services email: training@sheptonvets.com

Imrestor—a new medicine to improve immunity

A brand new medicine is now available that is set to reduce transition disease, reduce antibiotic usage, reduce worry and improve cow health.

During 'The Vital 90 Days' (60 days pre calving and 30 days post) dairy cows experience a dip in their natural immunity leaving them especially vulnerable to mastitis, metritis, and retained placenta. We would all recognise that this is a time we can see toxic cows suffering where the response to treatment can be poor and where there are serious financial consequences, and poor health and welfare.



AVERAGE disease costs, to factor in productivity losses

- 1 case mastitis = £297/case
- 1 case metritis = £217/case
- 1 case Retained Placenta = £49/case

Imrestor aids the cows natural defences by increasing the number of neutrophils produced by the bone marrow and optimising the function of the cows neutrophils. Neutrophils are the cows white blood cells that recognise and kill harmful bacteria. This is the first medicine of this kind in animal health and has been developed by Elanco Animal Health Imrestor.

Available in two prefilled syringes Imrestor is administered with two injections around calving. One 7 days prior to anticipated calving and one within 24hrs after calving. There is no withdrawal period.

This adds to our armoury in managing the transition stage for the dairy cow, allows us to move away from firefighting disease and instead focus on preventative care looking at the whole cow and her environment. The two injections in total cost £28/cow. If you have any further questions please ask your routine vet, or contact us at the surgery.

New Foot Trimming Service from our Vet Tech Hannah

We are delighted to announce that Hannah Olsen has joined the team as our 2nd Vet Tech. Hannah brings a wealth of experience to the role, having spent the last few years working as the manager of 1000 + dairy herd. Our new Foot Trimming service is available with no minimum number of cows. This service will cost:

£8 for both back feet trimmed or £12 for all feet

£3 per bandage and £8 per block

As a special introductory offer, book in 6 cows and only pay for 5.

If you would like further details or would like to book call the farm office.

Case Study: Redwater Disease



Michael recently attended one of our farms to see two sick cows. Unfortunately one of the animals died as it was being examined and the other was very lethargic with a fast heart rate. Further investigation showed these animals to be suffering from Redwater disease, a disease caused by the parasite *Babesia divergens* infecting red blood cells.



The disease is transmitted by ticks that tend to live in rough pastures and in field margins/headlands. When an infected tick bites a susceptible cow the parasite invades red blood cells, reproduces and then ruptures the red blood cell. All the new parasites then infect more cells and the process is repeated until the animal dies or is treated. The rupture of red blood cells causes animals to have red coloured urine (hence the name of the disease) and also to become lethargic with a high heart rate as the body tries to compensate for the lowered oxygen carrying capacity of the blood. It takes about three weeks from infection to the appearance of clinical signs.

This is a rare disease in this area, and was last found 12 years ago. We don't know why the disease has occurred on this farm and in this way, but marginal land makes it more prone to ticks. It is possible that deer have brought in the infected ticks. As well as treatment for Redwater cattle are receiving fly preventative treatments.

Spotinor is a spot on treatment that is effective against flies, lice and ticks, giving 6 weeks protection against ticks and 4-8 weeks of protection against flies. We now stock Spotinor at a very competitive price. Please contact us if you need advice on fly control to cover cattle into the autumn.

