

TB Testing:

As we are now in the thick of TB testing season, I thought it would be an ideal time to update everyone regarding how the team at Shepton Vets aims to help our clients meet all their TB testing requirements.

Our clinicians all undertake some TB testing but understandably most of their time is taken up with clinical work so we have worked hard over the last few years to build a team around our clinicians to support our clients' needs. With Robert, Oana and Ralph, we now have a great team of TB testers who are very well received on farm and provide an excellent level of client care while doing a thorough and efficient job.

More recently we have also been able to train up one of our Vet Technicians, Tom, to TB test as a 'Lay' TB tester.

Tom has worked really hard over the last few

months to gain a good working knowledge of cattle handling, the TB testing procedure and the disease in general, and has been very well received on farm.

Between our team of 3 TB testers and our Lay TB tester, we hope that there is sufficient flexibility to allow the vast majority of our clients to get their TB tests carried out at a time that suits them and with a tester that they have a good working relationship with. It has also enabled us to open up some Wednesday / Saturday slots for TB testing.

By making the most use of our TB team, as well as our vet technicians, it enables our clinicians to concentrate on meeting your needs for routine and other clinical work, so that we can continue to provide the excellent all round service that we pride ourselves on.

Lottie Mayo

Vet Tech & Delivery Service

Our Vet Tech & Medicine Delivery Service are here to help save you time.

Our Vet Techs can help with:

Stress-free disbudding

Vaccinations

Udder Singeing

Mobility scoring

BVD tagging

Body condition

Youngstock Service

Our delivery service can drop of medicines direct to your farm on a weekly basis for only £7 + vat per

For more information or to book an appointment please call the farm office team.

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www.sheptonvets.com

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.



January 2020 Edition

Farm Newsletter



Directors Focus

Planning for the year ahead

We would like to wish you all a happy, healthy 2020.

We hope that you were able to have some down time over the festive period and feel ready to embark on a new decade!

January is often a time for planning and thinking about what the next year may bring. As far as planning goes, now is a good time to order your herd's vaccines for the year, the cost of any vaccines ordered in January can be spread over 3 months. Herd vaccination is a significant investment but in light of increased scrutiny of medicine use, preventative treatments

become more important than ever. We have seen a couple of IBR outbreaks in the last month. Milk buyers and Red Tractor will continue to become more demanding and generate their fair share of head aches.

I have recently come across farmers being put onto spot inspections following them having 3 or more minor non compliances at their audit. The minor non compliances seem to be becoming increasingly minor.

Our recent medicine courses have been extremely popular reflecting new Red Tractor guidelines, be sure to book early

if you would like to come on one.

Fortunately 2019 saw a large reduction in TB reactor numbers within the practice.

2018 was a bad year and we found 451 reactors; in 2019 we found 296. This is a similar number of reactors to 2014-2017. Let's hope the cull is starting to take effect.

I'm crossing my fingers for an early spring as I'm sure many of you are.

Anna Patch

Red Tractor Approved Medicine Courses

Changes to Red Tractor compliance in October, requires at least one person on farm who is responsible for medicine administration to hold a certificate of competence or training. Our Medicine courses are approved by Red Tractor and the next course dates are:

Mastering Medicines

20th January

5th February

10.30am - 2.30pm
Courses cost £75 + vat

We also run MilkSure training courses; if you are interested in attending any of our medicine training courses or to arrange a course on your farm please contact Vicki in the Farm office on 01749 341761.



Events & Training Courses

Farm Health & Safety Event

17th January

Mastering Medicines

20th January 2020

5th February

Foot Trimming

17th February

DIY AI Course

2nd -5th March

Calf Rearing Lunch & Learn

18th March

Email: training@sheptonvets.com for

Health & Safety Event—17th January

Join Cornish Mutual & Shepton Vets for our Health & Safety day on Friday 17th January at Castle Cary Rugby Club, Brook House Field, Castle Cary, BA7 7PF

Join us for sessions on:

Animal Handling

First Aid, CPR. Bleeds and breaks

Quad Bike Safety

Risk Assessment

This is an RSVP only event with a limited number of spaces available, and space will be limited to 2 places per farm.

Booking is essential, please book in ASAP. This event is for farms across Somerset, so please book early if you would like to attend.

Book by Friday 10th January. To book call: 01872 246474 or email: engagementandpr@cornishmutual.co.uk

Registration will start from 9.30am, the sessions will start at 10am, and finish around 3pm. Hot lunch will be provided.

Warm clothes essential, we have limited places available, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Vaccination Planning

Our January vaccine campaign is back. 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.

Tetra Delta Supply

We have been informed by Zoetis, the manufacturer's of Tetra Delta, that this product has had a manufacturing issue.

As a result there is currently no availability of this product, and the earliest we have been informed it is likely to become available is the end of January.

Should you require an alternative intramammary antibiotic, please contact the practice directly to discuss your needs.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

TB CHeCS & TBAS:

A meeting about APHA's changes to its TB rules was held at the Bath and West Showground on Thursday 12th December. I don't know why TB meetings are held on test days because I missed the first hour or so! Rather than tell you about new tests for TB which may be in the pipeline, I think it's better to tell you the take home message, which Shepton Vets have voiced over the last few years, namely: TB IS NO DIFFERENT TO OTHER DISEASES, FOR EXAMPLE BVD, IBR, LEPTO AND JOHNE'S.

These 4 diseases can be controlled by using vaccines for BVD, IBR and Lepto and by testing and culling for Johne's. These 4 diseases, if not controlled, will lower your herd's productivity. TB also lowers your herd's productivity even if you don't have a breakdown. There's the cost of labour testing, a reduced milk output of about 1 litre/cow for 5 days, slipped calves and possible injuries to staff and animals. Then there's the waiting for the result..... Why not try to do something about controlling TB?

You will need to do something about controlling TB in your herd because APHA is trialling testing most herds every 6 months; but fortunately not in our area yet. Herds under TB restrictions will continue to be skin tested every 60-90 days possibly in combination with blood testing (the gamma test) at APHA's discretion. The gamma test will probably reduce the time that your herd stays under restrictions but in my sole experience of its use, you could lose up to 10% of your animals. Increasing

the number of times your herd is tested increases the chance of disclosing a reactor. 6 month testing won't apply to those herds which have been Officially TB Free (OTF) for over 6 years and to those herds which have been OTF for more than a year and whose owners have complied with the CHeCS TB (Cattle Health Certification Standard for TB). OTF means that a herd is not under TB restrictions. APHA recognises that a herd with CHeCS TB accreditation has a higher level of biosecurity than a non CHeCS TB herd and will only have to be tested annually.

CHeCS TB is recognised by APHA as a scheme to which farmers could belong to show primarily that their cattle are at a lower risk of TB and so should fetch higher prices. Now with the impending introduction of 6 month testing, membership of CHeCS TB must become more attractive to herdowners who are fortunate enough to have been OTF for a year or more. The annual fee for CHeCS TB is £35.

Some clients have already taken advantage of the free visits and telephone advice that Shepton Vets can offer on behalf of the TB Advisory Service (TBAS). As a TB Advisory Service advisor, I can offer you a free visit to discuss your biosecurity needs and suitability for CHeCS TB. The criteria for CHeCS TB are similar to those that Shepton Vets have been advocating in the past, which might be summarised as removing the 'Badgers are welcome' sign at your farm entrance! Ralph Drouin

Team Shepton: Robert Powell

Last time I wrote a staff focus I had just joined the practice. Two and a half years later I have settled into the team, got married and bought a house.

We have spent the last 18 months making the house and garden our own with various decorating and DIY projects including a new kitchen. In the last month we have built some raised beds and planted a bareroot hedge in our garden.

I also help out on our family farm milking 140 cows with all the beef reared and 150 ewes. We rear the dairy heifers on another unit and are just about to synchronise a group.

I also do a bit of running- this year Sophie entered us into a Christmas 10k in Weston - I think she thought it would be fun with people in Christmas fancy dress. I wasn't very keen on a Santa costume but on the day the wind was blowing a gale off the sea and running along the wet sand I was very grateful of the Santa hat.

