

June Farm News



Staff News



After 50 years, Cathy Snook has decided to retire from the practice.

Very few people work for as long as 50 years, particularly in one place—except for farmers! We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for all that Cathy Snook has done to provide the highest levels of care for the clients and animals during her long career at Shepton Vets. She has organised and supported all the staff, seeing us through many changes over the years, and will be sorely missed. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Many of you will want to pass on your best wishes to Cathy and she is likely to be at our farm walk in June and at the Mid-Somerset Show. We have a message book available for clients to sign on the front desk, if you would to send Cathy your best wishes.

Kate Burnby will be leaving the practice at the end of June, as Lottie Mayo returns from maternity leave at the beginning of July. We would like to thank Kate for her hard work and support over the last 10 months.

Farm Walk: Wednesday 29th June 2016 from 11am – 2pm at: R.A & G.E Pole, Brickhouse Farm, Wanstrow BA4 4SW

The Pole family, have kindly agreed to host our popular farm walk event on the 29th June. This year 's topic is all about a 'High Performing Herd'. Come along and see this 430 dairy herd, which milks 3 times a day and produces 11400 litres per cow, per year.

This is a great opportunity to speak to the suppliers involved in the farm:

- Paddy will be discussing Fertility including, Timed AI Programmes & Ketosis Management
- Transition success with Mike Bray from Kite Consulting
- Progiene will be talking about Feed Screed flooring on the feed surface with Angela Smith
- T H White & Bauer will be talking about supplying slurry solutions for A Green World
- Agribuild Construction, NMR and Wynnstay Agricentre will also be in attendance



**Space is limited, so please RSVP by 17th June to confirm your attendance.
Phone 01749 341761 or email: training@sheptonvets.co.uk**



In the interest of biosecurity, please wear clean rubber boots.



Dates for your diary:

Responsible use of Medicines—26th July

Dutch Foot Trimming Course—21st September

Email training@sheptonvets.co.uk for more details on our courses.

Visit by Jud Heinrichs

We were very fortunate to have Jud Heinrichs, Professor of Dairy Science at PennState College of Agricultural Sciences visit for the day. Jud devised the PennState separator and its interpretation. Paddy organised Jud to give a Masterclass to the Daisy Club meeting. Milking cow rations were sieved and discussed. Jud said his research shows that cows can cope with very fine rations as feedstuff more than 2mm long is retained in the rumen, but it is important to get the cow producing sufficient bicarb from her own saliva. We were able to identify differences in ration structure across local farms and discuss the impact this was having on health.



Jud then went on to hold a farm walk with Oliver and 8 clients focusing on heifer nutrition. This was run at the heifer rearing unit of one of our clients and discussion was around feeding heifers from weaning to calving. In particular "limit-feeding" of heifers – a novel approach developed by Jud at Pennsylvania State University generated a lot of excitement. Jud related the heifer to a dog – "You don't put a bag of dog food down and allow your dog to help itself – similarly heifers can be fed their exact requirements on a daily basis without any wastage". This approach requires regular weighing of heifers, but can dramatically reduce wastage of feed.

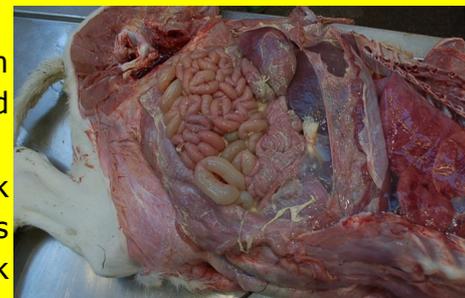
In the evening we took Jud to the Charlton Inn to introduce him to cider and then fish and chips, so he knows about English human diets as well as cow diets now. Thanks to Andrew Haggerty from Alltech for organising the day with Jud.

Case Study: Calf Health.

A farm recently lost of over 15 young dairy calves (in less than a week). At the start of the problem sampling had identified Cryptosporidium and Salmonella as a problem and so new management protocols had been put in place whereby the calves were removed from the dams immediately, given their 4 litre colostrum feed and thereafter started on powdered milk feeding. Cows were vaccinated against Salmonellosis and Halocur was used preventatively. After these changes had started a further few animals started to refuse feed and despite tube feeding with electrolytes and milk they then deteriorated eventually developing haemorrhagic scour. Antibiotics had little effect.

These calves were sent to Langford for post mortem by the diagnostic team there. On Post mortem there was significant forestomach pathology and sampling from this area showed numerous Clostridial organisms.

Recommendations were made for attention to detail to hygiene for milk powder preparation and feeding equipment. Oliver Tilling and Claire Maggs went to visit to start regular Youngstock Visits. They helped triple check every aspect of the feeding routine in terms of cleanliness, advised on



environmental cleanliness and disinfection of pens between calves. Feed dilution rates were checked ensuring the correct concentration of milk feed was presented to the calves consistently to reduce 'stress' on the stomachs which can then predispose to secondary infections. Actual feed amounts were double checked as it is really important that calves get adequate nutrition to enable them operate a fully functioning immune system. Often this will be more than we are used to feeding.

There have been no further cases for several weeks now and Claire and Oliver are continuing to review the case with ongoing monitoring with the Youngstock Programme. Claire will visit monthly and weigh all calves under 100 days to plot growth curves to check progress. She will also take a blood sample from calves under 7 days old to ensure that they have had adequate colostrum and that has transferred sufficient immunoglobulins across to the calf to kick start its immune function. If you would like any further help with Youngstock Issues please call the practice.