

February Farm News



Vital 90 Days Discussion Club Meeting

Our Pilton Meeting was well attended with 33 people turning up on the night for a talk and discussion on the Vital 90 Days, and cottage pie and a pint too. The Vital 90 Days is the time from dry off to 30 days after calving and covers a period when cows go through changes in feeding, routine, and group and with it are susceptible to metabolic disease (energy and calcium) and infectious disease (immune suppression).

Paddy visited six farms to assess feeding, housing and management using new tools developed by Elanco Animal Health that allow a structured assessment of farm conditions, along with a financial assessment of dry cow costs and disease costs.

The issues identified on the farm visits were in order of most frequently found:

- Management related (time in groups, feed access)
- Diets (chop length or diet formulation)
- Infrastructure/housing (water access)
- Cow body condition (fat cows)



Most advice could be easily acted on with easy and inexpensive modifications to existing systems and the farms showed a reduction in the common diseases of metritis, mastitis and ketosis when reassessed five months later.

The benefit was calculated at a £19 per cow calving reduction in overall costs during the Vital 90 Days, or potentially £2,000 for the typical 200 cow dairy. Risk assessments take around 75 minutes. For further details contact Paddy or your routine vet.

New Compulsory Dog microchipping law



Under the [Microchipping of Dogs \(England\) Regulations 2015](#) – new laws that were made in February 2015 – it will be compulsory for **all dogs** over the age of 8 weeks in England to be fitted with a microchip from 6 April 2016.

Your dogs can be microchipped in a nurse appointment at the surgery for the competitive price of £18, if it is done during surgery for another procedure it is discounted at £14.

Dates for your diary:

Responsible use of Medicines—17th February
DIY AI course— 8th—11th February • Dutch Foot trimming course— 23rd March

Shepton Vets Discussion Group Meeting-open to all.

TB in other countries 7th March—7pm at The Red Lion, West Pennard, BA6 8NH

If you wish to come along please rsvp to Georgina at the practice .

Ubrolexin Intramammary Tubes

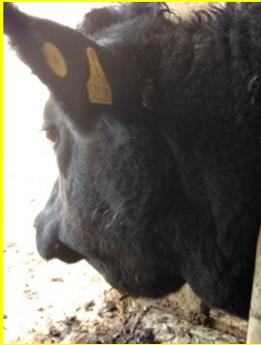


Shepton Vets now stock Ubrolexin Tubes for treating cases of Mastitis. This is a replacement for Cefimam/Cobactan tubes.

- The labelled dose is one tube per day for two days, then re-assess. We recommend treating for a minimum of 3 days **or** until one day after clots have disappeared.
- One day less treatment is typically needed than for Cefimam/Cobactan. This will depend on the bacteria present on farm and on response to treatment
- **Milk withdrawal is still 120 hours** from the last treatment.
- Ubrolexin contains a 1st generation cephalosporin and an aminoglycoside antibiotic. This gives an **excellent spectrum of activity against bacteria** whilst avoiding use of 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins, helping compliance with increasing pressures on 'responsible use of antibiotics'.
- Available in boxes of 20 tubes, at £60+VAT or £3 per tube.

For further updates in Responsible Use of Medicines come to our popular course 17th February at the practice Please speak to Georgina in the office 01749 341761.

Time for some radical tyre culling?



This steer was presented on a TB test as a 'while you're here' job! A big lump had suddenly appeared under his jaw –this lump was full of pus so I got my scalpel blade out and lanced it. Satisfyingly lots of pus came gushing out! I then probed the hole to check everything had drained–much to my surprise I pulled out the piece of wire above! The tyre wire had been eaten and gone through the jaw and was the cause of the abscess!

Anna Patch



The same week Bibby Thomas had 2 cases of severe milk drop with ill thrift and increasing weakness despite medical treatment. The first farmer opted to have the cow shot after her poor response to treatment, and to have an on farm post mortem to reach a diagnosis and check if there was anything that may affect other cows health. The main finding was a localised peritonitis in the front of the cows abdomen; suggestive of a wire penetrating the wall of the reticulum. This was confirmed when Bibby opened the rumen and pulled a long and thin piece of wire from the reticulum. On the second farm the cow also had muffled heart sounds, she too was culled and opened up. She also had a localised peritonitis, suggestive of a wire. Unfortunately for her, the suspected wire and infection had been forced further forward, spread through to her chest and was surrounding her heart, restricting the ability of her heart muscle to contract.



The time spent doing the post mortems was worthwhile and may serve to prevent other cows death as the farms are now getting rid of all tyres in poor condition with immediate effect, and gradually phasing out tyres in favour of rubber sheeting/sandbags, the cost of which is easily justified by saving one cow, a further two cows saved justifies the cost of tyre disposal! With the cost of a ruminal magnet, only £1 per cow (95p with medicine discount), then preventive herd treatment is certainly worthwhile too.

Feedback from University of Bristol /Langford reports diagnoses by PM for tyre wire disease in England and Wales has steadily fallen from 2006 to 2013. Part of that may be due to reduced submissions but also there is definitely better awareness out there. The peak in 2009 was due to an incident where one farm put a tyre in the mixer wagon (it happens!) .