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Training Dates

Practical Medicine Use

2nd September 10am—2pm

£75+vat

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DIY AI Course

7th –10th September

£425+vat

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Dutch Foot Trimming & Lameness Course

Wednesday 23rd September

£230 + VAT per person

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Polish Training

Wednesday 14th October

£25 + VAT per person

If you would like to attend any of these training dates, please contact Georgina in the farm office on 01749 341 761.

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

No minimum charge for visits

We are pleased to announce that from the 1st August we have reviewed our fees structure and there will be **no minimum time limit for visits. Calls will now be charged per minute on farm, the visit fee will remain the same.** We continue to listen to your feedback and take action accordingly, we hope this adjustment will help make pricing clearer and beneficial to you.

Brave new world of TB Testing ... After tendering

The process started to standardise the testing procedure and put external bodies (not DEFRA) in charge of quality control. To check this is happening as planned there have been a number of unannounced spot checks by APHA at TB tests up and down the country. Some tests have been halted and restrictions placed on vets and farms alike. It is imperative we are able to carry out the procedure safely and completely. **Every animal must have its ear tag read, all animals will require to be clipped and skin measured, we may require to see movement record. It should be possible to stop and restrain every animal equally on day 2 also.** Thank you in advance for your cooperation. **Alex**

Lighting and water

As the days get shorter, consider the cow's requirements for light. A milking cow performs best, with regards to production and fertility, with 16 hours of 'daylight' and 8 hours of 'night-time' per day. A cow considers 200LUX daylight. If natural light levels drop below this, and artificial lighting is not used or is inadequate, the milking cow's performance will suffer. It is worth testing light levels throughout the shed and making adjustments accordingly. We are able to measure light levels with a light meter.



Water is also hugely overlooked. A study recently found that identical groups of cows given UV filtered water as opposed to unfiltered water drank 40% more and produced 25% more milk! This really shows the importance of **quality**. Quantity is also very important – it takes a cow 3 litres of water intake to produce 1 litre of milk, work out how much your highest yielder needs! 60% of water is consumed immediately after milking, therefore water needs to be readily available, with plenty of space and a fast enough refill. Simple things are sometimes the most crucial, ask your routine vet or contact the practice if you'd like to discuss these factors further. **Charlie**

Early lactation, a recipe for success!

Ingredient 1: 21-26kg of Dry Matter Intake (DMI). A cow with the desire to eat as high DMI as possible will drive milk yield and reduce any loss of condition in early lactation (The greatest factor influencing heat and conception)

Ingredient 2: 2.5-3 of Cow Body condition Score (BCS) at calving (variable genetics/breed). Cows have a genetically set ideal BCS. Cows calving at a score above their genetic target will have a reduction in their DMI. Their body sends a hormone called Leptin (Human slimming pill) to depress their appetite. We have all seen this in the cow that has been dry for long time. We get a Fatty Liver situation along with Ketosis, LDA, mastitis, milk fever, retained cleansing or metritis. Use a **Kexxtone bolus** in these animals. Monitor Energy status in fresh calved cows by the use of **Ketotest Milk testing strips**.



Ingredient 3: 3 x Cows milk yield (ltrs) in Fresh, clean, readily available water

Ingredient 4: Put in an environment with 16 hours of good lighting (200 lux).

Serve in a feed space of at least 60 cm per cow. Leave to ruminate well, with plenty of additional good management and wait for your yields to rise.

Michael

New Vet Tech Support Service



Many of you will have already met Clare, our new Vet Tech, as she has been mobility scoring a number of your herds for the past 4 years. As our first Vet Tech Clare will be providing support services on farm and we will grow these services over the coming months. Clare can save you time by helping with;

Mobility Scoring: With nearly 10 years of experience, it is really worth investing in a "fresh pair of eyes", scoring can be done as little or often as needed and are followed up with farm specific data and graphs to help you monitor progress.

Body Condition Scoring: Vital for monitoring cow performance through both lactation and the dry period. Over weight cows can prove to be difficult to get in calf and are at higher risk of calving problems. This can be done at the same time as mobility scoring and if you take up both services the 2nd one is half price!

Disbudding calves: Gold standard disbudding – calves receive sedative, a NSAID and anaesthetic. This is aimed at reducing stress and minimising impact.

Ketosis testing: Milk samples can be delivered to the practice or collection can be arranged.

Vaccination programmes: Taking the hassle out of calf vaccines, leave it to Clare to administer and keep all future treatments in the diary for you so you don't have to worry about follow up doses.

If you would like to discuss any of the above or have any other ideas on services you would find useful please call the office.

Congratulations to the Fosse Group YFC

We are delighted to have sponsored and supported this years Young Farmers Rally at Manor Farm, Stratton on the Fosse. We wish to congratulate the Fosse Group YFC for their incredible fund raising efforts. A total of £15,000 was raised from the event. The major benefactors are Dorset Air Ambulance, RABI and Hannah Francis.



Celebrating 10 years of XLVets

XLVets is celebrating it's 10th Anniversary and as a collective, each practice is fundraising for Send a Cow and local charities. Along with Send a Cow, we have chosen the Shepton Cubs and Guides packs and Youth With Future, all based here in the community. You will be hearing about our endeavours over the next few months as we complete a Tri-charity challenge to reach our goal of £1000. Ellen and Paddy recently competed in the Frome Half and 10K races respectively and the Pets team will be fundraising at this months Mid-Somerset Show.