

# September Newsletter



**SHEPTON  
VETS**

**F A R M**

Tel: 01749 341 761

Fax: 01749 342 363

[farm.animal@sheptonvet.com](mailto:farm.animal@sheptonvet.com)

## AHDB Meeting

### Surviving Low Milk Price

10th September 10.45am—2pm

To book email:

[rebecca.miles@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.miles@ahdb.org.uk)

~

## Training Dates

### DIY AI Course

7th –10th September

£425+vat

~

### Dutch Foot Trimming & Lameness Course

Wednesday 23rd September

£230 + VAT per person

~

### Polish Staff Training

Wednesday 14th October

£25 + VAT per person

~

## Dairy Show

Wednesday 7th October

Come and visit our stand at the Dairy Show

Call the practice if you wish to attend any training courses

**Medicine news:** Our buying team have been working hard this summer to review our medicine prices and negotiate lower prices when buying drugs, so that we can pass on these savings to you. We recognise that this is a tough time for farmers. We are pleased to announce a reduction in price of **Tetra Delta, and this will now be priced at £58 per box of 24 tubes.** We are working on further deals and will let you know more details as these become available.

Many of you are taking advantage of our 5% medicine discount by signing up to direct debits. Those of you that have will be able to purchase Tetra Delta at £55.10

## Scouring Calves:

We have had several cases recently where the numbers of scouring calves has crept up. Its really easy to blame it on the usual bugs that were diagnosed a year or two ago and continue to manage in the same way, be that with vaccination or anticoccidials. A few farms have been caught out as different pathogens emerge as the prime culprits. We now stock a test that can quickly test a dung sample at the practice to tell us whether we are looking at E. Coli, Rotovirus, Coronavirus or Crypto as a primary problem. This allows us to give you the results within 24 hours, and the cost per test is only £12.50. It is best to sample calves that have only just started scouring and we can supply sample pots for submitting samples. If you know the bug, we can then give the most appropriate advice and treatment.



## Selective Dry Cow Therapy Updated Guidelines

Selective dry cow therapy is a developing area for dairy farmers and vets too, with pressure to adopt this approach being applied by Arla, but other dairy companies likely to follow. As we find out more about it, it is becoming clear that problems can occur unless a careful approach is taken. For your herd to be suitable for selective dry cow therapy you need to have a stable or decreasing cell count. Your 3 month rolling payment average cell count should be less than 200. We also advise doing a bulk milk PCR test (this is available quarterly from NMR for £80) to ensure contagious mastitis is not a problem in the herd. If lots of contagious mastitis bugs are found we do not advise selective dry cow therapy.



We now advise that for a cow to just receive teat sealant and no antibiotic she needs to have not had a cell count of over 120 during that lactation. Previously 200 was used as a cut off but if you use this then there is a chance that 1 quarter could have had sub clinical mastitis but the cell count (taken from 4 quarters) will be less than 200.

If you have any questions please contact the practice. We strongly advise that you take advice on herd suitability and individual cow protocols. Each farm has its own bugs and cell count profile. It is not worth risking cell count penalties and a lower milk price by getting this wrong.

## Mid-Somerset Show:

2015 saw another great day for the Mid-Somerset Show. It didn't rain, and nearly 20,000 people attended! The practice is heavily involved, with Michael Head on the Show Committee and on duty as Honorary Vet for the day. He was pleased to report that his services were not required, except to help with biosecurity.

The practice sponsors the cattle ring and the Stewards tent, and it was great to see success for practice clients including the Clothier Family, Sally Salter, Julian Newth, George Attwell, and Jason Bennett. Paddy Gordon came away with rosettes for his sheep and his daughter won third prize for young handler.

Congratulations to Paul Barber and Pat Keen for their long service awards for service to agriculture in the area.



The small animal team ran a stand in the top field with Martin Law providing veterinary cover for the dog show. They raised money for local charities by making smoothies powered by a bike - well done to vet Greg for his pedal power!

## Introducing Kate Burnby

Kate qualified from Massey (New Zealand) in 1994, and has travelled and worked in New Zealand, USA and the UK. Along the way she has gained a Royal College Certificate in Cattle Health and Production, and during her time in Colorado obtained a forklift licence, while doing an internship in production animal medicine.

She is now living in Faulkland, having moved down to join her partner, and his 14-year-old twin boys. In her spare time she enjoys Scrabble, vegetable growing, walks and is finding her way round the road networks.



We are glad to say Kate is now a regular fixture here at Shepton, with a wealth of knowledge on all things dairy, especially feeding, fertility and farm economics; costings and cost savings. Her specialist subjects are grazing and seasonal calving herd management. Please contact her via the office if you have any thing you would like to discuss with her.

## It shouldn't happen to a vet....

Calls come in at all hours, but Peter Morley had a particularly difficult night when he had a call at 3-30am to say there is a cow calving and the farmer has found two heads.

His first thoughts were great 'easy calving' push one of the twins back and pull the other one out, then back to bed...

The first hurdle was when he arrived to find the cow flat on her side straining for England; no way she was going to let anything be pushed back in! .... A while later...Oh b\*\*\*\*\*ks, still can't get the second calf back, so stop and scratching his head he hunted for second pair of front legs.... No joy...Must be a calf with two heads- now what!

In twenty five years Peter has never used two head ropes to calve a cow but there is always a first time. He admits during the pull he couldn't help thinking somebody is going to look a right prat if this was a twin but he was correct, and quite a pull later he managed to pull this two headed calf out . The cow stayed standing the whole time and appeared to be none the worse .

By the time he got home there was just time for a quick shower, a piece of toast, and out on routines -so much for an easy calving!

*Peter Morley now says Two heads are not always better than one !??...*

