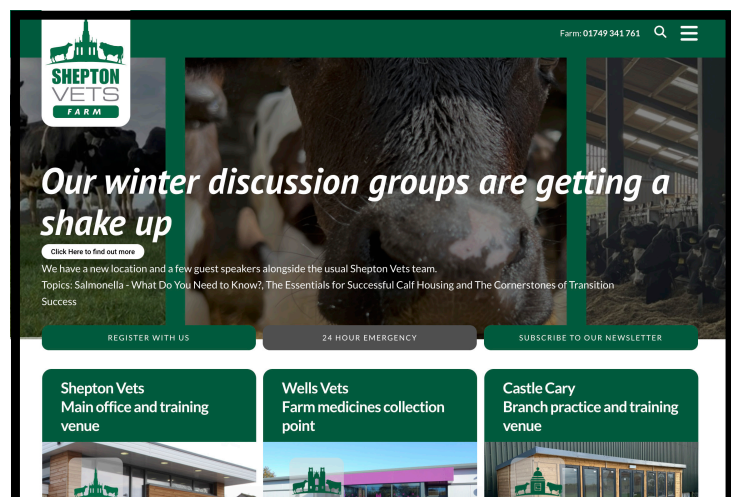


Shepton Vets in Castle Cary and a new website

We are pleased to tell you that our Castle Cary branch practice is now operating as a medicines collection point. We hope that those of you farming south of the practice will find this new site is more convenient to use, reducing journey times when collecting medicines. Vets and techs will begin to use this office to aid efficient working in the coming weeks.

If you would like to collect your medicines from Castle Cary, order by 9am for same day collection.

We will soon have a fully stocked pharmacy at the site meaning preordering isn't essential (but it's always recommended!). We are planning some drop in tea and cake sessions – a chance to pick up your medicines and have a chat with the team.



Shepton Vets have a new website, www.sheptonvets.com will take you to our new home page, this has been a big project that has taken some time, so it's good to finally see it launched. The new site services our farm, pets, export and training departments. The [farm department pages](#) have lots of information about our services and team, it is very easy to book places on training courses and practice events. You will also find lots of articles written by the team.



Why not scan the QR code – this will enable you to confirm your attendance at our first winter discussion group of the year, Salmonella, What do you need to know? While you are on the website, have a look at our pages and see who you recognise!

Dont forget you are able to order medicines via WhatsApp 07592307394 at any time of day, Send your account name, farm name and the medicines you need.

The team enjoyed seeing lots of you at the Dairy show, if you visited the stand thank you for coming to visit, it's always great to see you off farm and have a chat, if you entered our competition, the answers to the more or less competition appear later in this newsletter

- Anna Hares

Tuesday, 19th November 2024

Salmonella: What Do You Need to Know?

Speakers: Mick Millar and Dom Harrison from Bristol University Farm Postmortem Services and Shepton Farm Vets.

The veterinary pathology team at Bristol University will provide insight into Salmonellosis on cattle farms, highlighting the key factors that contribute to infection. We will also explore a herd example to illustrate practical management strategies for controlling Salmonella Dublin.

**SHEPTON VETS
WINTER
DISCUSSION
GROUP**



ALL CLIENTS PLEASE NOTE

From January 2025, all farm invoices will be sent via email. Please ensure that we have the correct email address on your account by emailing: farm.animal@sheptonvets.com. Those already receiving invoices by email do not need to do this.

If you cannot receive emails and need to continue to receive invoices in the post, then please give the office a call and let us know.

Thank you for your support

Octobers AI Course Recap

- Rosie Lyle



In October, we ran another successful AI course. This time, the course had a smaller group size with three delegates. This was the first course we ran of this size, and it proved to be very beneficial for everyone's learning and skills development.

Charlie led Day one, which was classroom-based, covering all the essential principles required to move on to live cows. Days two and three were hosted on two different farms, giving candidates a real chance to experience the variations seen between individual cows and farms. Having a small group meant there were many opportunities for delegates to refine their skills and receive individual coaching, but also tiring on forearms!

With two of the three delegates going straight into the breeding season on their farms hopefully this will be perfectly timed for them to get stuck and put into practice the new skills they have learn. I look forward to following up with all the delegates 6-8 weeks later to support their continued progression.



Meet Amelia

I'm originally from Oxfordshire, and studied at the University of Nottingham, but I spent a lot of time seeing practice in the southwest and felt a strong calling to the area after graduation! For me, nothing beats a good calving or lambing, but I'm excited to get stuck into all aspects of farm practice and am passionate about supporting our farmers in maintaining healthy herds and producing high quality, sustainable British food. Outside of work, I enjoy running and playing hockey, and I'm looking forward to exploring the beautiful Somerset countryside.

Salmonella in Cattle

- Bibby Thomas

Unfortunately, we have recently seen an increase in the number of herds testing positive for Salmonella. There are many species of Salmonella that infect cattle and humans meaning its important to have good hand hygiene out on farm. Salmonella Dublin is reported to be the most common stereotype and this is what we have found on Shepton farms. Signs of infection vary greatly and partly depend on the age of the affected animal.

Young calves can present with septicemia, which rapidly can progress to death, initially these calves are dull and depressed, sometimes there will be scours. However, it is more common to see disease in older calves typically between 2-6 weeks old. Unfortunately, if adult cows are affected, infection can result in abortions usually between 5-8 months of pregnancy. It can result in abortion storms involving 25% of the herd. Cattle that abort have subsequent placental retention and poor lactation, contributing to the overall cost of disease.

Control of salmonella on farm, involves good cleanliness, biosecurity and utilizing vaccination to help boost the herds immunity to infection. We will be discussing Salmonella at our next winter discussion group. Mick Miller and Dom Harrison from Bristol University Farm Postmortem Services will be joining us to highlight the key factors that contribute to infection. I will also be discussing farm control strategies in more detail. If you would like to come along on the 19th November, please contact the office to book your space or scan the QR code att the bottom of this page.



Post Mortem pictures of a 4 week old calf that died from Salmonella septicemia. The carcass is very yellow and shows lots of purple spots throughout the lungs.

Tuesday, 19th November 2024

Salmonella: What Do You Need to Know?



**SHEPTON VETS
WINTER
DISCUSSION
GROUP**

Digital dermatitis in dairy cattle

- Rosie Lyle

Digital dermatitis is one of the most recorded diseases leading to lameness in dairy cattle. This group of bacteria causes painful dermatitis on the skin of cows' feet. Digital dermatitis is classified using an M stage scoring system based on visual appearance. Lesions are classified as either active (M1, M2, M4) or healing/chronic (M3, M4.1). Active lesions are associated with pain.

Treatment of DD

Several treatment regimens have been developed to address digital dermatitis (DD). In the UK, one licensed treatment is topical antibiotic sprays (Oxytetracycline 'Blue Spray'). The recommended protocol is: 'Clean, Dry, Spray, Reapply', and then mark the leg for daily spraying. Spreader pliers allow us to access the interdigital space directly to examine and treat lesions more effectively. You will need to disinfect your hands and equipment after treating cows with digital dermatitis to prevent the spread from cow to cow. Disinfection requires a minimum of 20 seconds of contact time. Effective disinfectants include 1:100 FAM30, 2 percent Virkon, or 2 percent sodium hypochlorite.

Since DD can be painful, should we be using NSAIDs to support recovery?

A recent study in 2021 demonstrated evidence for the potential benefits of administering a single dose of Ketofen (a zero milk withhold NSAID) alongside topical treatment for animals with DD. This study demonstrated at 1 week post treatment all lame cows that received Ketofen produced more milk compared to the control group (+3 kg/day), and those that were freshly calved and lame showed the most improvement and milk (+10.5 kg/day) compared to controls. We know calving is a high-risk time for lameness, and although this study didn't examine long-term outcomes of treatment, other studies demonstrate additional benefits on NSAIDs around calving to reduce inflammation in the foot and the subsequent future risk of lameness and culling.

What is Digital Dermatitis's Role in non-healing lesions?

Claw horn lesions (CHL), where the corium becomes infected with DD treponemes, commonly result in non-healing CHL. These feet are painful and difficult to treat as treatment of these lesions require extensive debridement of the area back to healthy horn. This can only be done successfully under specialist local anaesthetic techniques by the vet. Procedures like this can prevent claw amputation and heal well but these cows may require special care for life.



Severe digital dermatitis lesion. This is a M2 lesions using the scoring system.



Non healing lesion 'Toe necrosis' before

Non healing lesion 'Toe necrosis' after

If you're interested in improving your dairy herd's mobility, the Shepton Vets Healthy Feet Scheme offers a structured approach to support you in achieving this. The scheme costs £50 per month for 12 months (excluding VAT), and if you sign up for the AHWP Animal Health and Welfare Review, we can offer the first three months and a RoMS Mobility score for free.

TB or not TB

- Ralph Druin

The 90% reduction in the number of skin reactors recorded at the end of last year could be, I fear, the best result we will see for some years. I am sorry to report that we have been finding reactors every week since early September, with little indication that this pattern will change over the winter. I wrote this at the start of the week and am delighted to report that a herd with a long history of TB problems has had its third clear 6-month test, so perhaps it is not all doom and gloom!

Government policy is moving away from badger culling for the control of TB towards badger vaccination. The downside of badger vaccination, apart from the bureaucracy and cost of obtaining a license, is trapping enough to vaccinate as the same ones may come back night after night. Cattle vaccination, which was going to be trialed next year, has gone quiet.

If you would like a free TBAS visit, please contact the practice, Elly has recently completed her TBAS training, myself, Alex or Elly would be happy to visit to discuss ways of reducing TB risk in your herd.

Fencovis replaces Bovigen Scour as a superior calf scour prevention vaccine

The first vaccine with an oil-free adjuvant licensed for the prevention of calf scour is now available. **Fencovis® from Boehringer Ingelheim protects calves against rotavirus, coronavirus and E. coli K99.** The vaccine is oil-free for optimal safety, and its effectiveness has been demonstrated by extensive European studies and field trials.



A 2 ml single-dose intramuscular injection administered to the dam 12 to 3 weeks before calving prevents diarrhoea caused by rotavirus and E. coli K99, while reducing the incidence and severity of disease caused by coronavirus. Fencovis® also reduces shedding of rotavirus and coronavirus and increases antibodies to rotavirus, coronavirus and E. coli K99 in calves from vaccinated dams.

Fencovis is available in 1, 5 and 25 dose bottles at the same price per dose so accurate delivery is possible.

There is a price reduction when compared to Bovigen Scour.

DISPENSARY UPDATE

Betamox is now back on the shelf, however stock levels may continue to be volatile until after Christmas. Pen & Strep has returned but stock will continue to be unsteady until the new year

MEDICINE DELIVERY

In addition to our medicines collection points in Castle Cary and Wells we offer a medicines delivery service. Mick is our new delivery driver. He has hit the ground running. If you see him in practice or out on farm, say hello and ask him about his music collection. Just try not to hold him up too much.

Please note medicine delivery requests must be in by 5pm before your scheduled delivery day.

WhatsApp medicines ordering number: 07592 307394



Surgeries were completed by the Shepton Vets Farm team in the last 12 month period



Mobility scores were completed by Shepton Vets Farm RoMS accredited scorers in the last 12 months



Calves were disbudded in the last 12 months by the Shepton Vets Farm Vet Tech team



Animals have been TB tested by the Shepton Vets Farm Team



53 Bristol University students were taught in the Shepton Vets Farm practice in the last academic year

For clients needing a vet any time of day or night, call:
Farm 01749 341 761
365 days a year, 24/7 emergency service provided by our own team of vets.



Office Opening Hours Monday-Friday: 8am - 5:30pm Saturday : 8:30am - 12:30pm
farm.animal@sheptonvets.com
Call: 01749 341 761