

Hi Everyone, well its almost November and we still have some dairy cows outside – which is something I can't say very often. Maize harvest went well for most people and there aren't too many axle-deep ruts formed, so let's hope the rest of the winter is as kind.

Much discussion this year has focused on milk price and let's hope that the gap between the farm gate and commodity prices narrows quickly. One of the things that does frustrate me is the lack of milk promotion that goes on, other than for specific brands. I was reading an article about Laura Kenny the Olympic gold medallist cyclist and how she put a lot of her recent improvements down to improved nutrition and a crucial part of that being drinking milk as

part of her post-training recovery programme. Now, if you go to the make mine milk promotional website you will see this story but why isn't it being promoted much more widely in a year when the Olympics has been inspiring youngsters to take up sport. If they all drank milk after a training session we would drive a fair bit more demand.

We would also like to congratulate Claire for her success in completing her Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice. This is something that she has been working towards for several years and has been juggling with work, being mother to Jack and Cameron and we take our hats off to her. A great effort.

Ben

Fluid therapy in calves (Sarah)

The most common reason for dehydration in calves is scours, although any illness that prevents the calf from wanting to feed can be responsible. Signs to look for include: Skin elasticity (skin tent) ,Sunken eyes — assessed by the space between the inner edge of the orbit and the eyeball , cold extremities, depression/collapse, dry mucus membranes, rapid pulse rate. The sooner these signs are spotted, and the sooner rehydration therapy is started the better the outcome. There are many rehydration products on the market these days, but none will be better than little feeds, often, and getting onto milk again as soon as possible. Many pricey products will claim to 'bind' calves but the evidence for this is very limited. If the calf can stand/sit up in sternal go with 2L of warm (35 degrees approx.) Effydral or Lifeaid made up according to instructions, and if it won't suck then tube it. A calf requires 6L of fluids a day just for maintenance. A suggested regime could be **DAY 1: am feed** = electrolytes (2L) **lunchtime** = electrolytes (2L) **pm** = milk if suck reflex/appetite or electrolyte(2L) **DAY 2** – if had no milk previous pm milk must be offered (ideally suckled even if just 1l) **Lunchtime**=electrolytes, **pm** = milk. **DAY 3** – am + pm milk feeds with a lunchtime electrolyte. It is important water is available at all times, especially if using Rehydion and adding it to the milk. So long as water is not added to milk/milk replacers or electrolytes given within 1 hr of milk feeds there is no evidence that feeding milk increases the severity or duration of scours.



Orf (Claire)



This ram highlighted the importance of quarantining animals before introducing them to the stock on your farm. A few weeks after purchase this ram had a couple of scabs on his lip and soon after this lesion came up on a wether keeping him company. Since this animal hadn't yet been introduced to the flock, disease could be contained. Orf is a viral disease that is characterised in sheep and goats by scabby lesions around the mouth and nostrils. It can persist in the environment for years and can cause poor growth if in a lamb crop. It can also be passed on to humans.

Beef Meeting (Megan)

Thank you to everyone who attended the Autumn Beef Meeting; according to your responses to the survey the meeting was a success. We have taken your suggestions for topics to be discussed and areas for improvement on board and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting. We were really pleased by how many of you attended and many interesting discussions were had involving many of yourselves. Take-home messages - stress free weaning achieved best growth rates and lower disease challenge; add PD dates to the diary for accurate calving dates; a tight calving block minimises the risk of misalliance and your sleep interruption was less drawn out! Thank you to all who responded to the survey and a special thank you to everyone at Trenchmore Farm and Karen from MSD.



NOTICE BOARD



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First Aid course availability

We'll be hosting a one-day Emergency First Aid at Work course for our employees on Friday, 16th December (10am-4pm) and have a couple of spaces available. Please call the practice (01798 343538) if anyone would be interested in attending for a small fee (in the region of £80-100).

What do you get if you cross a tractor and a robot? ... A transfarmer...boom boom

Fluke part 2 : the aim of the game (Megan)

Treat the **right stage** of fluke, at the **right time** of year, with the **right active ingredient**. We would like to help you do risk assessments on your farms so your treatment is targeted and as often as needed but as little as possible. Fluke is an all year round problem. Keep up to date with fluke risk in your area by looking at the Nadis weather forecast. Beware of the fresh grass that grows after it's been flooded- High risk of carrying fluke even though the water has now drained away. Ask your abattoir for feedback about fluke found in your animals- this is free. **Snails** are tiny- you won't see them. They don't like stagnant water or alkaline soils. Fence off land/ graze it at a lower risk time. Drain if you can. Be aware that the intervals between treatments are shorter now than in the past. Make sure you calibrate your weigh scales and drench gun to ensure accurate dosing.

| Time | Autumn/early winter | Late winter/spring | Spring/Summer |
|--------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Stage | Immature fluke and adults | Immature and adult fluke or | Adult fluke. Treating at this |
| Active | Triclabendazole/ Closantel | Closantel/Albendazole/ Ox-yclosanide | Albendazole/ Oxyclosanide |

Many products have different names but contain the same active ingredient.

Triclabendazole – no persistent effects so you may see problems 5-6 weeks after treatment. Large margin of safety with the dose rate so **do not underdose** your animals. Closantel - has a smaller margin of safety. More **accurate dosing** required. Also kills worms including **Haemonchus**. Benzimidazole (white drench) - do not use at **Tupping** as they can cause the birth of malformed lambs. White drenches also include Selenium and Cobalt- Be careful not to over supplement. Be aware that the liver needs to be functional in order for the fluke treatments to work. If the liver has been badly damaged then you may struggle to control fluke in these animals. **Resistance**- lots found with the white drenches and Triclabendazole products. This is increasing. Careful bringing resistant fluke into your flock/herd when introducing new animals onto the farm, leasing land. If your worming seems to be ineffective- check for fluke.

With thanks to Elanco.

Feed efficiency (Maarten)

As we are starting to get into the cold snap, we should be thinking even more so of ways in which to maximise the growth efficiency of our heifer and bull calves. We know that calves are able to convert feed into growth most efficiently in the first 28 days when compared to any other time in their lives. However, when the temperature drops below 15C (or if a calf is unwell) a calf has to start using a significant amount of the feed that we give it just to keep warm. Milk is so easily digested that it doesn't help generate much heat so until they are ruminating they need some extra warmth. Therefore it is important that people think about providing heat sources for calves (calf jackets, lamps, shelters), protect them from cold draughts (pen dividers, straw bales around edges of pens) and consider increasing feed provision slightly in order to still achieve growth weights of 0.8kg/day. If you go and look at your calf pen when most calves are sleeping and you see calves preferentially lying in one area, or around the edges of pens, this is their way of telling you that they are feeling a chill! We can offer calf coats for £25 per individual coats or £20 per coat if more than 5 are ordered.

Welcome to Sarah...

Sarah has been with us for nearly a month now and has met a fair few of you, but for those that haven't met her yet her is a little about her... Sarah graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2011 and went straight into a large animal only practice on the New Forest. She has spent the last few years concentrating on the beef herds and small flocks in that area, and really enjoyed becoming part of the 'Forest community'. She grew up on the edge of a dairy estate and has always enjoyed working with the cows and people involved in the industry. Her grandparents farmed on Exmoor so holidays were spent down there and with growing up on the edge of the new forest, she has been spoilt with scenery and is looking forward to exploring West Sussex. She has a beautiful working cocker called Solo, who she is attempting to control/ make useful on several friends shoots, but it is work in progress!

