

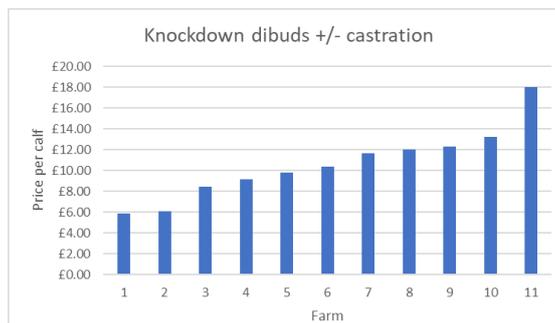
Autumn is under way which means calvings! We have set up a score board in the practice so we can see who's getting their hands dirty. Make sure you direct your calvings to me so I can win! We are also busy with the beef herds and pregnancy diagnosing. Some of the results have highlighted the potential challenges of the heat during the summer as well as the value in fertility testing your Bull who is half the herd. Look out for the Heifer meeting in November—details to follow. *Megan*



Getting the girls ready for PD

Disbudding— New Zealand style (Megan)

We've had great uptake and feedback from clients opting for knock down disbud technique. This is where roughly 20 beef or dairy calves at a time are sedated as well as given the usual pain relief before disbudding. It allows for far easier handling of the animals enabling a large number of calves to be disbudded +/- castrated and extra teats removed at a reduced hourly rate. Factors influencing the cost of this method are the speed with which we can complete the job which is affected by: Age (3 weeks old ideal), people available to help (vet plus 1 other), space to move around in, pens allowing ease of access between batches of animals (enabling us to have burners close and not to be jumping hurdles). The farms with the most efficient system have managed to disbud calves for £7 per calf and the most inefficient jobs have costed just under £20 per calf. We are really pleased at the uptake of this method which demonstrates increased welfare of the animals (and farmers) and efficiency of the job. **Farmer feedback:** *'This is a good option for stronger calves, and/or you are short of labour and have got a bit behind. It is a quick and efficient method allowing you to get through a large number of calves quickly. The calves transitioned nicely at weaning and there was little distress to calves or to farm hands.'* Tim Knapman, dairy farmer in Hampshire. Any questions please contact Megan



Successful Flock Health Meeting on Lameness (Sarah)

A really successful meeting was held for our flock health club members on the big topic of lameness, by kind permission of the Olphert family, who were excellent hosts. It was great to have so many members attend and devote some time to this important area of flock health. Did you know that the government has set targets for the UK flocks lameness? By 2021 we are aiming for less than 2% lameness across the national flock. We are currently sitting somewhere around 4%, so we have some way to go. It is also recognised as one of the main areas of antibiotic use, and one of the biggest costs to a flock in terms of treating it and lost production. We looked in detail at the three most common types of lameness seen in the UK; scald, footrot and CODD (contagious ovine dermatitis). You notice I say 'types' rather than causes, as we all learnt at the meeting we now know that scald is seen as early footrot and is caused by the *Dichelobacter nodosus* bacteria. The other bacteria that is sometimes found in severe footrot is *Fusobacterium necrophorum*. We also learnt that scald is the most infectious stage of footrot, and therefore any scald seen in any adult sheep must be treated promptly and with injectable antibiotics. The control of BOTH scald and footrot on a farm is the only way to get a handle on your lameness; this is what following the 5 point plan will help you do. CODD is very similar to 'Digi' in cattle, although we are still not sure how or if the disease crosses species. It is caused by spirochaetal bacteria called *Treponemes* and causes probably the most severe lameness on farms. We also learnt footbathing is very, very rarely the cure for lameness we all hope it will be! We touched briefly on the use of the 5 point plan and we hope to follow this up in more detail by carrying out risk assessments on all members' farms individually over the course of the year. If you are interested in joining the flock health club, or if you want to discuss your own flock's lameness and how we can start to tackle it please get in touch.



NOTICE BOARD



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Ltd

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Johne's Disease

Deadline for Action Johne's is 31st October 2018. You must have your declarations signed by your Johne's Accredited Vet.

Artificial Insemination

We are running a full artificial insemination course 22, 23 & 26 October 2018 based near Plumpton. This is a practical course covering tank to cow. It includes five on-farm sessions, looking at post mortem specimens and a test at the end!

If you are interested please contact Claire at the office

Claire@livestockvets.co.uk



Welcome to Laura and here is an insight into vet work in the southern hemisphere (Laura)

Laura has recently joined the practice primarily to help with the TB testing workload (with a few bits of clinical work when she can get her hands on it!) post Elena leaving and Markos getting up to speed. She graduated from Bristol University in 2012 and following this undertook two and a half years of mixed practice in rural Wales. Suffering from a serious case of wanderlust, Laura moved over to Australia in early 2015, working and travelling her way around the country, including 3 months mustering in outback Northern Queensland. She then moved over to New Zealand for a year working for a predominantly dairy practice in the Bay of Plenty in the North Island. Whilst there she enjoyed the challenge of the infamous calving season and encountering several diseases unique to the Antipodes, one example being facial eczema (FE).



Images from ventent.co.nz

FE is a photosensitisation disease caused by ingestion of the spores of a particular species of fungus which contain a toxin called sporidesmin. This causes severe liver damage and an obstructive jaundice whereby the liver is incapable of removing the harmful metabolite, phytoporphyrin, (a breakdown product of chlorophyll in the grass). This phytoporphyrin is photodynamic and accumulates in the skin where it reacts with UV light to cause severe 'burnt' skin lesions, similar to that seen with St John's Wort.

Treatment is supportive and the focus is on prevention which mainly involves dosing animals with zinc either in the water, feed, as a drench or with boluses. Other control measures involve strategic grazing, spraying fungicides and also breeding for genetic resistance especially as public concerns over zinc residues in milk continue to

rise.

Laura arrived back in the UK about a year ago after a short stint travelling and working for a cattle charity in India and has been locuming at various practices since returning. Laura is an amateur photographer, surfer and rider (anyone out there

A training course and risk assessment for farmers to avoid medicine residues in milk

The Livestock Partnership are hosting two MilkSure meetings in conjunction with ARLA on Antibiotic use for ARLA members at **Brinsbury college dairy, Stable Barn Farm, Blackgate Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1DD on 9th October 2018** or **The Long Barn, Whitewool farm, East Meon, Hampshire GU32 1HW on 12th October 2018**. Both meetings will be at 12.00pm until around 2.00pm. Antibiotic residues are increasingly under the spot light and findings show that most failures in our region come from misunderstanding of correct usage, withdrawals periods, or lack of focus during handling and administration. Any tools that help us reduce the use of antibiotics in dairy should be very much welcomed. The MilkSure programme is 2 parts, the first being theory, which can be done at meetings such as the one mentioned above, and a follow-up on farm with your vet which will take around 1 to 2 hours depending on your farm. The meeting above is Part 1 of MilkSure course, a programme that Arla are fully supportive for all its members to take part in. Every member that has attended MilkSure so far have found it extremely worthwhile and have given positive feedback. The cost of the vets time is not covered by Arla, but the £66 MilkSure license is currently covered by Arla. Only 500 MilkSure licenses are available to Arla Farmers so it is based on a first come first served basis. The vet time cost will be £250 for both the theory (meeting) and on farm session follow up. MilkSure is compulsory with some processors following a failure event, it is not currently with Arla, however it is strongly encouraged as best practice to avoid costly antibiotic residues. If you would like to attend one of the above meeting please email ellie.gibbs@arlafoods.com so she can share the details needed to register for the course, or if you would be interested in Arla organising a future group meeting please let me know and I will be happy to arrange this. When confirming attendance at the meeting, please state the meeting you wish to attend.

The Livestock Partnership is a trading name of The Livestock Partnership Ltd (7785579) registered in England and Wales

Registered Office: The Livestock Partnership, Market Square, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0AH

A list of the Directors of The Livestock Partnership Ltd will be provided on request or can be inspected at this address