

Unit 8 Sedgemoor Auction Centre  
Market Way North Petherton  
Somerset TA6 6DF  
t: 01278 663399

[www.thefarmvets.co.uk](http://www.thefarmvets.co.uk)

Stopgate Cross  
Yarcombe, Honiton  
Devon EX14 9NB  
t: 01404 861214

5, Larchfield Industrial Estate  
Dowlish Ford, Ilminster  
Somerset TA19 0PF  
t:01460 55004

## Newsletter September 2017

### Common Eye Problems in Cattle

**Cattle are susceptible to contracting infectious eye conditions all year round, however summer is the highest risk period due to the increased number of flies spreading infection.** Although there are other, less common causes of eye diseases, here are two main infectious eye conditions in cattle;

#### Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK) - "Pink eye" / "New Forest Disease"

IBK is caused by the bacterium *Moraxella bovis*. As you will have undoubtedly noticed on farm, it is most common in the summer (as it is spread by flies), and more common in young stock. The pain and discomfort this causes to stock is amplified by direct sunlight. As always, severe pain or discomfort can massively suppress normal grazing patterns, reducing productivity. If left untreated, severe cases can lead to the ulcerations perforating the cornea and the eye can be lost - hence it is important to recognise the symptoms early on.



Whilst spontaneous recovery is possible 3-5 days after clinical signs, the risk of this disease progressing should prompt fast treatment. **A licenced eye ointment (eg: Opticlox) should be used as directed until the signs resolve.** However, in severe cases injectable antibiotics and anti-inflammatories may be required (often administered into the conjunctiva directly). **Preventing the spread of disease via good fly control is essential** - this was covered in our June newsletter.

#### Bovine iritis - ("Silage eye")

Bovine iritis is caused by the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*. As the name suggests, silage eye occurs in cattle fed rations of contaminated baled silage / haylage. The surface of the eye becomes bluish and opaque. Treatment is important as regression without it can take several weeks to resolve. The treatment protocol above should be followed after removing the bad silage.



Youngstock **4life** Roadshow

**Sedgemoor Auction Centre**  
**Thursday 12th October 2017 - 7pm prompt**

**FarmVets SouthWest are holding series of Youngstock meetings this autumn. Whether you are a dairy or beef producer you are welcome to come along!**

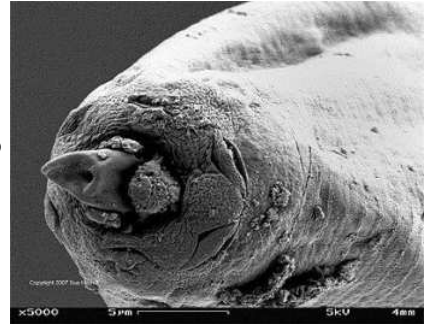
We will provide practical tips on how to maximise health and productivity of your calves, whilst reducing your need for antibiotics. Contact any of our offices to book your place. As usual complimentary drinks and meal will be served after the meeting.

**Maximise your calves potential - let's tackle the issues together.**

## Haemonchus: The vampire worm!

*Haemonchus contortus* (the barber pole worm) resides in the abomasum of its ruminant hosts; principally sheep and goats. Whilst it is considered as a roundworm, *Haemonchus* does not conform to the typical clinical pattern of parasitic gastroenteritis. **Diarrhoea is not a characteristic symptom of haemonchiosis.**

*H. contortus* is a blood feeder. Adult worms have a piercing lancet at their head end which is used to cut through the mucosal lining in the abomasum, enabling them to suck blood. When adult worms move on to feed at new sites, damaged mucosa will continue to bleed. **Each worm can remove about 0.05ml of blood per day**, so when you consider an infection level of 5000 adult worms is not uncommon, individuals can lose in excess of 250ml daily. Clinical signs of anaemia will first appear in those most vulnerable, namely lambs. **It is not unusual for haemonchiosis to go unnoticed until your youngstock start dying at an alarming rate.**



Thankfully, haemonchiosis can be prevented with your usual parasitic gastroenteritis control strategies. Worm control strategies should be reviewed on a regular basis; SCOPS guidelines are a good place to start if you wish to know more. Whilst using anthelmintic wormers will be an important part of your control strategy, it should not be the only method of control. With resistant worm populations becoming ever more common, worming **MUST** be combined with other methods such as grazing management to interrupt the worm's normal life cycle.

**Regular faecal worm egg counts are an excellent way of monitoring the worm burden in your stock.** For your convenience this is something the FVSW team can offer in house (for just £12 +VAT) with results usually reported the same day.

## Imrestor: An novel way of protecting your dairy cows

It is well understood that productive lactations are the result of well-managed energy balance and immune function around calving. **With our growing awareness of antimicrobial resistance, and our endeavour to reduce use of antibiotics on-farm, we will have to find new alternatives to manage cows during these periods.**

Focusing on immune suppression as the cause rather than managing the consequences, will decrease costly diseases post-calving and set your cows up for a productive lactation. Imrestor is one such product that has recently been added to our arsenal. **It is not a hormone, not an antibiotic, and not a vaccine.** It is the first and only registered immune restorative for periparturient cows and heifers and also has no meat or milk withdrawal times or residues to worry about.

Around calving, and for the few weeks post-calving, all cows' immune systems are suppressed, leaving them more vulnerable to periparturient diseases, as well as mastitis. Essentially cows in early lactation have very low neutrophil function and therefore their ability to fight off and kill harmful bacteria is compromised during this time. **Imrestor helps stimulate and restore the cow's immune function and increase the number of active neutrophils at calving and the early risk period post-calving.** Clinical studies show that incidence of clinical mastitis cases in the first 30 days are reduced by as much as 28% with the use of Imrestor, justifying its cost.



**Ask one of our vets for more information on Imrestor and how it works.**