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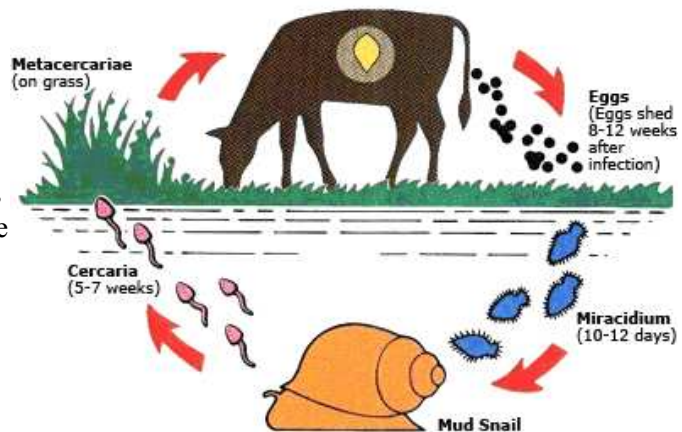
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## Newsletter October 2017

### Fluke Forecast

Some of you may have noticed the 'pleasant' wet weather we have been having recently, washing out all your late barbecue plans. **Be aware, this wet weather has created excellent conditions for the intermediate host of Liver Fluke - the mud snail.**

When Spring temperatures reach 10°C, liver fluke eggs begin to hatch into miracidium, which subsequently become ingested by the mud snail. The life cycle must progress in the snail. In the snail one egg can quickly multiply to produce 500 cercaria within the snail hence **MORE SNAILS = MORE FLUKE!** Cercariae are expelled from the snail and become encysted metacercariae on herbage. These can then be ingested by both cattle and sheep. Within the sheep it may take between 10-12 weeks before adult flukes are producing eggs in the liver. However, the real danger period occurs prior to this as damage is caused by immature liver fluke migrating through the liver, damaging bile ducts and liver tissue.



**Fluke can cause acute disease in sheep at this time of the year** with signs including sudden death, anaemia and fluid in the abdomen and under the jaw. **Sub-acute and chronic forms of fluke infestation are more likely to occur later in the year** (and through to next year) with signs including weight loss, diarrhoea and again fluid in the abdomen and under the jaw.

Products containing triclabendazole (Endofluke) should be used to kill immature fluke. Since snail pesticides are not allowed, a simple measure to implement this is to attempt to avoid putting stock in the wettest fields on the farm to prevent contact with the dreaded mud snail.



Youngstock **4**life Roadshow

**FINAL REMINDER**

**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 ASAP to book your place.** As usual complimentary drinks and meal will be served after the meeting.

## Analgesia in Calves

At the end of August, the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) published a statement regarding their opinion on analgesia in calves. In the interest of animal welfare the BCVA have **emphasised the importance of appropriate pain management** associated with disease or necessary husbandry procedures, such as disbudding and castration.

Pain in calves is typically assessed by physiological and behavioural changes in the individual such as lethargy, teeth grinding, suppressed appetite and increased heart and respiratory rates. In addition to the obvious welfare implications, pain will reduce animal performance, suppressing growth rates and leaving them more susceptible to disease.

The perception of pain and willingness to treat pain in cattle has without doubt increased significantly over the previous decade. Yet despite routine husbandry and surgical procedures of calves being scored as painful, calves are still **far** less likely to receive analgesia than adult cattle. **The use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID's) during the aforementioned husbandry procedures is something all vets at FarmVets SouthWest encourage.**



During routine disbudding and castration procedures, short term analgesia (certainly no more than six hours) is achieved through the administration of local anaesthetic. But imagine burning your finger, though the feeling of pain may diminish, chances are it'll still hurt later that day if not the day after! Administering an NSAID (such as Metacam) at the time of the procedure will reduce the signs of pain once the local anaesthetic has worn off. Keeping your calves free from pain will encourage them to continue eating and drinking as normal. Analgesia can reduce stress levels and reduce the impact these procedures can have on their growth rates. **Speak to one of the FVSW vets today to discuss your current disbudding and castration protocols.**

## Register of Mobility Scorers (RoMS)

Lameness is an ever increasing concern to the dairy industry, causing significant welfare concerns (as well as economic losses). Over the last few years there have been several initiatives to improve the mobility of dairy herds across the UK, but lack of reliable and consistent scoring is thought to have hampered progress. Whilst the AHDB have established a UK recognised method of scoring as the industry standard, up until now there has been no way of ensuring scorers are meeting those standards.



**The Register of Mobility Scorers (RoMS)** is a new, independent, self-regulatory body which encourages the wide spread use of standardised scoring conducted by **trained and accredited scorers**. If you check the register you'll find vets **Eoghan, Matt and Charlie** are already registered on the RoMS for the South West region.

**The importance of mobility scores should not be underestimated.** As well as identifying your current mobility index and monitoring progress being made in reducing lameness on your farm, it is an essential tool for promptly identifying lame individuals. If this isn't something you do on a regular basis perhaps now is the time to give it some consideration?

**Don't forget to come and visit  
FVSW at the SW Dairy show!**

**October 4th, Bath &  
West Showground**

**FarmVets**  
SOUTHWEST

**THE DAIRY SHOW**

**BATH & WEST**  
THE DAIRY SHOW