FarmVets SOUTHWEST

FarmNews

Modern approach, traditional values

January 2023 Newsletter

Not doing regular Johne's testing? Maybe our Vet-Techs can help?

Johne's control is centred around 2 principals;

1) Testing to determine which cows have the disease.
2) Avoiding manure (and milk) from those cows coming into contact with any of your calves, especially in the first month. 1 shedding cow can easily contaminate a whole calving yard putting all calves present at risk.

Lots of our dairy farms have signed up to the Herdwise quarterly milk antibody tests which are a great way of robustly testing. Determining cows that are likely to be shedding in high numbers (**yellow** or **red** cows) means we can manage them differently, ensuring they don't calve down near other calves and their offspring is not kept. We can though attempt to truly 'snatch' female dairy calves, talk to a Vet.
If you are not doing regular testing, you should consider doing a one-off blood test on a selection of your cows to determine herd status. Smaller farms should do at least 10 cows, but larger farms should do up to 30. This is already a Red Tractor minimum requirement for dairy farms and looks likely to becoming obligatory for beef farms. If you have more than 30 cows then pick your worst ones to sample! Lame, infertile and high cell count cows are more likely to be harbouring Johne's disease than your best cows. **Our Vet techs can carry out the blood sampling at 25% of the normal Vet rate and so make testing more affordable.** The lab fees will be the same though. They will even do it on day 1 of your TB test to reduce handling (we can't carry out the test on day 2 unfortunately).

Another option is to carry out the blood test on all pre-calving cows before they enter the calving yard. This is a great tool for both beef and dairy herds as it helps find the most infectious animals at the time when we really need to know their status. You can then separate them off to calve elsewhere. For dairies, this may work out cheaper than committing to the quarterly sampling.

Talk to a Vet or Vet Tech about adding a Johne's screen during your TB test or arranging (regular) pre-calving blood samples.

Nil-Milk Withdrawal Antibiotics

With antibiotic residues in milk being vitally important to your milk buyer it's worth remembering that we have sourced a Nil-Milk Withhold antibiotic Ceporex.

Speak to us, and see if it can be used prudently and part of your health plan.

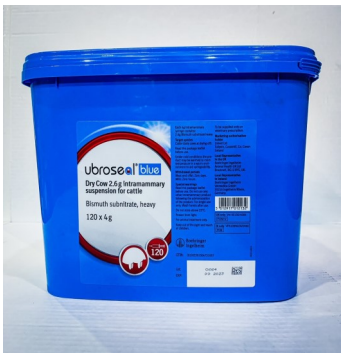
Milksure Course

We will be running our next Milksure Course on **Wednesday 11th January 2pm at the Sedgemoor Auction Centre.**

Milksure is a training and veterinary certification programme for dairy farmers. Whilst centred on residue avoidance in milk, it covers other areas of good medicine stewardship, such as adhering to correct treatment protocols, medicines storage and reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance.

This course covers Red Tractor medicines training requirements.

Introducing Ubroseal® Blue



The benefits of internal teat sealants for cows at drying off are well established – reduced risk of new infections during the dry period results in fewer cases of mastitis in early lactation. For some time now, mastitis experts have recommended teat sealants for every cow, every dry period.

Until now, all teat sealants in the UK have been white in colour. Whilst this is what we're all used to, it does have some disadvantages in that white teat sealant doesn't stand out easily in milk and can be confused with mastitis clots.

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health have recently launched Ubroseal® Blue. This update to classic Ubroseal®, from white to easier to see blue, can help farmers to be confident of best practice when it comes to teat sealant administration and removal. Blue teat sealants have been popular for some time in other countries such as the USA.

Ubroseal® Blue (similar to the colour of Blu-tac) is clearly visible in milk. This makes it easier to be sure that all teat sealant has been removed when stripping out before milking, and easier to differentiate traces of teat sealant from mastitis clots. The blue colour also helps to highlight if traces are getting through to the milk filters – if you're seeing traces of sealant regularly in the milk filters it's worth reviewing administration and removal protocols - your vet can help with this.

Want to save money this year?

Concentrate feed is typically the largest variable cost in running a sheep enterprise and most concentrate feed is fed in the period around lambing. The most profitable sheep farms are those which have their costs under control. With feed costs high this year it makes even more sense to have these under control. Ewe Nutrition in late pregnancy is crucial in managing a whole rage of diseases and issues:

Under-nutrition	Over-nutrition
Low lamb birthweight and survival rate	Over-sized lambs and dystocia
Reduced udder weight and mammary development	Prolapse
Weakened ewe/lamb bond	Weakened ewe/lamb bond
Pregnancy toxaemia	Pregnancy toxaemia
Delayed onset of lactation and lower colostrum and milk yield	Lambing difficulties causing delayed onset of lactation
Impact on the long-term performance of the ewe	Potential for a high BCS to impact on future performance
Reduced lamb growth rate	Reduced lamb vigour

Grass, Silage and Hay all vary in the nutrients that they contain and the quantity that a ewe can consume. Hay, haylage and silage can vary considerably in quality from year to year and field to field. Most feed companies will analyse your forage for FREE and from this we can calculate the requirement for concentrate feed.

Do you feed concentrates at a set level no matter what?
Do you feed concentrates to single bearing ewes?
Are you sourcing different feed ingredients this year because of the cost of feed?
We have saved farms £000's of pounds where they have engaged with us in ewe nutrition planning.
Why not save yourself some money and discuss a ewe nutrition plan with us today.