



FarmNews

Modern approach, traditional values



December 2023 Newsletter

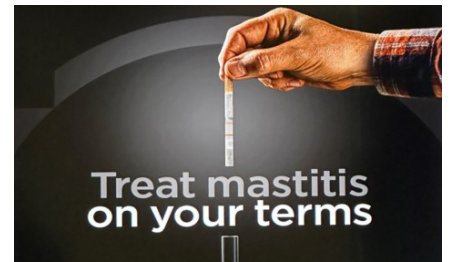


New product - Vetscan® Mastigram+

There is a new product available for mastitis detection that can help you to better target mastitis treatment, giving test results on farm in only 7 and a half hours.

Many mastitis infections caused by gram-negative bacteria will self heal in cattle, whilst almost all gram-positive bacterial infections will not and often require a longer course of antibiotic treatment for a higher chance at a full cure. This product allows farmers to detect whether or not a mastitis infection is caused by a gram-positive bacteria, giving you a quick answer as to whether or not this cow can be left without antibiotic treatment and monitored. We would recommend any case of mastitis is given a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) pain relief such as Metacam, but we have other products with zero milk withdrawal such as Kelaprofen or Rimadyl that would also be appropriate.

We will host a meeting to discuss the most appropriate way to use this product on farm and how it works. If you would be interested in attending the meeting please contact the Bridgwater office on 01278 663399 and register your interest, we will then contact you with information about the meeting.



Fluke testing

Do you regularly treat your cattle for fluke at housing? Why not test before you treat and determine the optimum time to treat as well as utilising cheaper products to kill adult fluke. We now have in-house fluke egg count testing with results within 24 hours for cattle and sheep.

This detects eggs laid by adult fluke rather than immature larvae. This is particularly useful for cattle as immature larvae are less of a clinical concern in cattle. This can also be used to screen ill thrifty ewes at lambing time to determine if a fluke drench is required pre-turnout. Many clients which have moved to testing rather than blanket treating have saved considerable money. Speak to us today to discuss testing or drop a dung sample into our BW office.



Christmas opening times

Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th)	Closed
Christmas Day (Monday 25th)	Closed
Boxing Day (Tuesday 26th)	Closed
Wednesday 27th	Open as normal (Yarcombe closed)
Thursday 28th	Open as normal (Ilminster closed)
Friday 29th	Open as normal
Saturday 30th	Open 9am-12.30pm (Bridgwater only)
Sunday 31st	Closed
Bank Holiday (Monday 1st January)	Closed

Non-Steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs) use for mastitis

Eoghan McAlonan

How do NSAIDs (Metacam™) combat mastitis?

We know that NSAID therapy is important in pain management and in reducing temperature in cases of fever, but did you know about their specific benefits in relation to mastitis alongside appropriate antibiotic therapy?

1. **Maintain feed intake and rumenal contraction** - Mastitic cows treated with NSAIDs have been shown to have improved dry matter intake and rumen contraction rates.
2. **Improved recovery rate** - NSAID use in mastitis cases is associated with improved recovery and reduced udder swelling compared to controls.
3. **Improved bacteriological cure** - NSAID therapy alongside intramammary treatment has been shown to improve mastitis bacteriological cure rate.
4. **Improved conception rates** - proportions of cows conceiving to first service and pregnancy rates at 120 days are higher when NSAID treatment is included in mild/moderate mastitis cases.
5. **Net economic benefit** - using NSAIDs to improve cow comfort and cure rates in mastitis can result in net economic benefit compared to cases that go without. It saves you more money in the long run!

Using Metacam™ alongside antibiotic treatment in mastitis cases will be beneficial for the cows health and productivity in both the short and long term. If you would like advice on how to control and treat mastitis on your farm, please contact the office and ask to speak to a vet.



Sheep Discussion Group Meeting

The next meeting of the FVSW Sheep Discussion Group will take place on Monday 18th December at 12pm at The Maypole Inn, Thurloxton, Taunton, TA2 8RF.

Lunch will be provided.

'Benchmarking Performance: How do you perform amongst your peers?'

This event is FREE to 'Sheep Discussion Group' members and £10 to non-members. Please call any of our branches today to book your place.

Freeze Branding

We now have larger cow brands as well as heifer brands. We will always send 2 vet techs to minimize number of staff you need to commit. Price based on numbers, please ring if you would like a quote.