



## January 2024 Newsletter

Happy new year from all of us at Farmvets Southwest! 2023 was a busy year for us, as we grew our team to a record high of 11 workers out in the field - 7 veterinary surgeons and 4 ATTs/vet techs. We had many events to celebrate, such as Cormac receiving a Nuffield Farming Scholarship, Eoghan completing his Cert(AVP), Victoria being voted favourite team member by our staff, and our practice being voted into the top 5 practices in all of VetPartners.

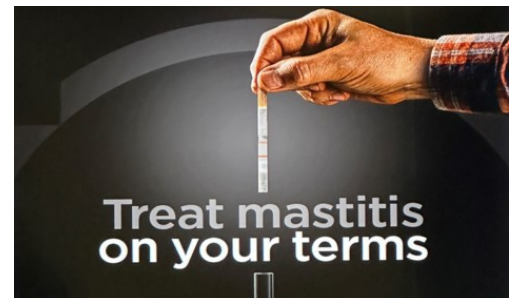
We hope you have lots to celebrate from last year and are looking forward to 2024.

### **New product meeting this month - Vetscan<sup>®</sup> 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 will host a meeting on **Wednesday the 17th January at 12pm at the Maypole Inn, Thorloxtton**, to discuss the most appropriate way to use this product on farm and how it works. **Lunch will be included.** 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.

## Make Sure You Look After Yourself

January can be a difficult time both physically (it's cold and wet!) and mentally. The short days and the end of the festive period can make it a dark time of year, particularly for those who work outdoors. It is important to take time to look after yourself.

Starting a conversation about how someone is really feeling can make a massive difference and be a start on the road to recovery. There are number of organisations that can help:

- Farming Community Network Tel. 03000 111 999, [help@fcn.org.uk](mailto:help@fcn.org.uk)
- RABI Tel. 0808 281 9490
- Samaritans, Tel. 116123, [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org).

If you feel you or someone else is at immediate risk, then dial 999 and ask to speak to the police.

Mind (Mental health and Wellbeing Support and information) 0300 123 3393 or text 86463.



**SAMARITANS**

**FCN** | THE FARMING  
COMMUNITY  
NETWORK

**RABI**   
helping farming people

Also, vets are never so busy that we cannot stop and have a chat for a few minutes, we are not mental health professionals, but we can lend a friendly, understanding and compassionate ear. It is good to talk.

## Do you use rings for castrating and tail docking your lambs?

Castrating and tail docking using rubber rings to constrict blood supply is a common practice for sheep farmers. Under UK law this procedure needs to happen within the first 7 days of life. The Sheep Veterinary Society has reported that in many cases this procedure causes acute pain, and in very young lambs this pain may be so debilitating that insufficient quantities of colostrum are ingested, predisposing the lamb to a range of diseases.

As with any procedure that cause acute pain, it is important for animal welfare to give a pain relief whenever possible. We recommend that when ringing lambs they are given an appropriate dose of Metacam. The dose rate in sheep is 1ml/20kg, so an average lamb would only need approximately 0.2ml. Whilst not a legal requirement, it is likely to improve growth rates as the lambs will be up and drinking quicker.



### New team members

We would like to welcome two new team members to Farmvets Southwest. Ella Weeks, our new full time vet tech and TB tester, and Amber Puckett, our new admin working mostly in our Bridgwater office.

### 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.