



If you own cattle this article is relevant to you...

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is a disease of cattle that still plagues our country causing massive economic

source of the disease and most effective way of spreading it between farms and other animals. Farmers with cattle holdings in England can register straight away by signing up to the BVDFree scheme online at www.bvdfree.org.uk. Registration is free. However, as this is currently a voluntary farmer-led programme, BVDFree only has access to very limited funding and so there is a small charge to cover the uploading of test results (between 25-50p per sample) which will be added to the cost of your laboratory tests for BVD. As an introductory offer, there will be no charge for the upload of test results from samples between July 1st, 2016 and October 31st, 2016. This means that it is imperative you register sooner rather than later to avoid unnecessary costs. Also, if you have already been actively monitoring for BVD then you can upload past results to provide evidence of your BVD free status.

losses. Many countries throughout Europe have managed to eradicate the disease through national campaigns, but England is unfortunately behind the times with tackling this condition. However, from July of this year the national campaign 'BVD Free England' is being rolled out.

It is a farmer-led scheme designed to eliminate BVD virus from all cattle herds in the country by 2022. It will develop a national database, storing individual and herd test results for scheme members with an aim of proving freedom from BVD. Farmers can upload test results, whether that is blood results, bulk milk samples or tag and test results. These results can then be viewed by other farmers to ensure that the farm they are buying stock from is free of BVD and that the individual animals they are bringing onto the farm are also free. This testing is focused on the identification and removal of animals persistently infected with BVD (PIs), the most important



August 2016

- BVD Free
- Surgical Wound Abscesses
- New Interns
- Driving Dairy Efficiencies Conference
- London Lamb
- Pig worming
- Product News
- Regional News

These are the first stepping stones to achieve complete eradication of this disease in the UK, ridding us of the unnecessary costs of the disease and finally putting us on level standing with our neighbours. It is also expected that while the scheme is currently being done on a voluntary basis, once the majority of the cattle industry have registered compulsory measures will be put in place by the government to tackle the disease.

Infectious Disease Surveillance

We are currently running a heavily subsidised surveillance programme monitoring BVD, IBR and Lepto in cattle. This is an ideal opportunity to monitor for these costly diseases with all sampling, lab testing and subsequent advice being done for a set £25 fee per farm as long as it coincides with another visit - for example your annual TB test. If this is something that may interest you, please contact us at the practice or speak to your regular vet.



Ben Barber

Bluetongue Update

A reminder that Bluetongue is still a very likely threat to the UK this summer. There have been a further 4 cases in July in central France, pushing the total there to 298. This is in line with how we expect the disease to behave in infected areas in mainland Europe- a slow increase from around July. There are no indications that disease has spread beyond their Restriction Zone (RZ).

Defra suggest that there is currently a medium risk of infection arriving in the UK and have not altered their original forecast of an 80% risk of infection arriving by September. They conclude that a key effective control measure against BTV8 is vaccination, and recommend that your vet will be able to advise on the most appropriate available options for each farm situation.

There are two vaccines now available in the UK – Zulvac 8 Bovis/Zulvac 8 Ovis and Bluevac BTV-8.

WE are now stocking the Zulvac vaccines and strongly urge you to please talk to us as soon as possible about the use on your farm in particular specific timing to achieve maximum protection.

Zulvac 8 Bovis	100 ml	£75.00	Cattle	50 doses
Zulvac 8 Bovis	20 ml	£15.00	Cattle	10 doses
Zulvac 8 Ovis	100 ml	£75.00	Sheep	50 doses

There are some very informative short videos on BTV risk (<http://bit.ly/1T24Nfo>) and BTV transmission and clinical signs (<http://bit.ly/1WdzthR>). The latest Defra risk assessment is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/qualitative-risk-assessment-bluetongue-virus-btv-8-entry-into-the-uk>.

Surgical Wound Abscesses — What to Look Out For

The two most common major operations that we perform in cattle are DA surgery ('displaced abomasum' or 'twisted stomach') and caesareans. Both of these require an incision to be made in the flank of the cow, and despite our best efforts these wounds can become a focus for infection afterwards. This can be exacerbated by various factors, including:

- Contamination of the surgical site (e.g. if the cow goes down into mud or dung)
- Extended time operating (surgical complications)
- Failure to follow up on farm with recommended treatments
- Underlying disease

Unfortunately the cows we operate on also tend to be at their most metabolically vulnerable at the time of surgery, due to their stage of production: DAs usually occur in fresh cows; caesareans of course at the point of calving. Any freshly calved animal will benefit from additional 'TLC' management at this time, which could mean energy supplementation in the

form of propylene glycol, mineral support (such as calcium) and must include unlimited access to fresh water.

If an infection sets in after surgery, the invading bugs initially trigger the four cardinal signs of inflammation, which are heat, pain, redness and swelling. These signs will be present around the wound anyway following surgery, but will become more pronounced with infection. The purpose of this inflammation is to deliver white blood cells to the area in order to fight the invading bacteria.

If this initial defence is unsuccessful, the surrounding tissue generates a large amount of fluid and pus which we refer to as an abscess. The risk-period is generally within a fortnight of the initial surgery and will be fairly obvious if post-operative monitoring is being carefully carried out.

If you identify a surgical wound abscess it's a good idea to get the vet involved as soon as possible. If left for too long, an abscess can result in gangrene of the surrounding area and breakdown of the stitches. Treatment will vary from case to case, but may involve the following:

- Lancing, draining and flushing of the abscess itself (as shown in this picture)
- Pain relief and anti-inflammatory therapy
- A very serious abscess may need to be completely opened up, so that the dead tissue can be removed, and then allowed to heal
- A course of antibiotics may be required if the bacteria are getting into the bloodstream and making the cow sick or feverish



This caesar-wound abscess has been lanced and is draining. It was afterwards flushed thoroughly.

Happy monitoring!

Pete Siviter





Product Recall

We need to make you aware that a recently released product, **Velactis**, which aids in the rapid dry off of high yielding dairy cows has been WITHDRAWN following several adverse metabolic reactions in cows in Denmark. CEVA Sante Animale who makes the product

has initiated a voluntary product recall; please return any unused product to dispensary. Also, if you have experienced any adverse reactions then please report them to your routine vet as soon as possible.

Introducing our new Interns



Charlotte Mouland graduated from Bristol University in 2015 and went on to spend six months working as a dairy vet in New Zealand, enjoying the challenges of seasonal calving work. Charlotte joined Synergy as one of the new interns in July 2016 and is excited to get stuck into the variety of work that Synergy has to offer; her particular interests include preventative medicine and sheep work.

Outside of work Charlotte enjoys walking, horse riding and helping out on her family beef and sheep farm, particularly tending to her own pedigree flock of Hampshire Down Sheep.

Abi Charlesworth graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2016, and joined Synergy fresh faced in July 2016 as one of the new interns. Abi was born and bred in Somerset, so she is excited to start her career close to home. She enjoys working with beef suckler herds and has a keen interest in herd health and genomics particularly in cattle.



Outside of work Abi enjoys spending time with her Cypriot rescue dog, playing hockey, going to festivals and trying out the local scrumpy.



Fly Control

A reminder that flies are very much active and the risks are ever present. At Synergy Farm Health we have been able to negotiate a competitive price for **Spotinor**, a spot on type product produced by Norbrook, which not only is licensed to prevent and treat nuisance and biting flies for up to 8 weeks but also lice and established blowfly strike.

2.5 Litre	£165
5 Litre (2 x 2.5L)	£315



10 ml single dose per animal for up to 8 week coverage

Update on Worming Pigs

There are several parasitic worms that affect pigs, but the most important is *Ascaris suum*. The adult female of this species grows up to 40 cm in length and has a significant impact on growth and production due to its larvae migrating through the liver (causing 'milk spot liver') and lungs (causing coughing and secondary infections). This is generally a disease of outdoor pigs.



Pete Siviter

How can I test for Worms?	Abattoir reports and liver condemnations of slaughter pigs and cull sows are a reliable method of identifying the problem. Faecal egg counts (FECs) may be misleading if the female worms are not producing eggs at the time.
Does Paddock Rotation Help?	Moving to clean ground (i.e. no previous pigs) will prevent exposure, provided the pigs are wormed prior to movement. Ascarid eggs will survive on the ground for many years .
When do Pigs need Worming?	Every six months if known to be exposed.
What Products are Available?	Injectable ivermectin, FLUBENDAZOLE in-feed or in-water

IN-FEED FLUBENDAZOLE PIG WORMER IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM US IN INDIVIDUAL DOSES FOR MORE COST-EFFECTIVE TREATMENT

Driving Dairy Efficiencies Conference

Harper Adams University, Newport, Telford
Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th September

Organised by a steering group of XLVet members from throughout the UK, this inaugural conference has been developed to share knowledge and ideas that can help drive efficiencies on modern dairy farms.

It is aimed at medium to large sized herds and will be of particular interest to the decision makers of the future. The conference will also include five practical 'Farm Skills' workshops.

Conference highlights:

- Get an insight into the future of the UK dairy industry
- Hot topics – calf health, transition cow health, dry cow management and lameness
- Real life examples of how simple changes have made a real difference

For more information about this conference please contact the office or speak to Andy Adler.

Prices correct 01/08/2016 (Ex VAT)



News from our Rounds

Alasdair Moffett



Make hay when the sun shines...and plenty of you have been. Show season is in full swing; Ed, Esme and I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the Royal Cornwall Show in June. The local Dexter herd to Dunkeswell has enjoyed continued show success at the Devon and Mid Devon shows; and we look forward to seeing many of you at Honiton Show. Same place as always.

Thank you to the Dyer family for all their efforts in getting ready for the Ham Hill Discussion Group Summer farm walk last week. Hopefully the farmers came away with an insight into what we can learn regarding herd genetics, and the vets certainly learnt about growing maize! With the warmth of the following week, that maize has grown at least a foot and a half. I am sure others of you have had similar growth. Ham Hill is an informal discussion group, originally started by Jereme and Ed, but is something all of us really enjoy being involved with. It was great to see 50+ of you a few weeks ago, and Diana Dyer's Hog Roast went down a treat. Esme and Tom Shardlow have been delivering youngstock costings meetings this week and it's great to see the 'youngstock message' getting out. Rearing replacements is the second highest cost on farm, on average it costs £1800 to rear a healthy heifer. Getting it right can be one of the best on farm investments a business can make; getting it wrong can end up costing you a lot more. As some of you may have heard I shook hands with a hedge trimmer last week, I've had my fingers operated on and will let you know how its going at Honiton Show!

Ed Powell-Jackson



I recently diagnosed copper deficiency in a suckler herd, where the main presenting sign was poor fertility in adult cows (a prolonged calving season with lots of services needed) and poor growth rates in some of the youngstock. Historically this herd had supplemented with copper boluses, but had stopped due to warnings in the farming press regarding the perils of over supplementation. Certainly too much copper can be extremely dangerous to cattle, but especially to sheep. Once diagnosed, copper deficiency does not usually go away, unless you start grazing stock elsewhere, so in this case bolusing has had to start again. We also checked the sheep flock on this unit. Copper levels were entirely normal, despite sheep grazing similar pasture to the cattle. I was surprised, but have since learnt from the sheep experts in our practice that there is considerable breed variation in sheep, with some breeds being very much more vulnerable to copper deficiency than others.

Take home message - do not assume that if your cattle have a copper problem your sheep will too! Sheep are very prone to copper poisoning so investigation is always warranted if a copper shortage is suspected.



Ham Hill Discussion Group

Tom Shardlow



For the first time in ages we've had some properly hot summer weather in Dorset. On two days last week the temperature reading on my van's dashboard was in the high 20's. Wearing waterproofs and doing lots of PD's hasn't been the most comfortable job!

Several of our dairy farms have noticed the conditions causing some short term milk drop associated with heat stress. One of the few advantages of the extreme rarity of proper summer weather in the UK is that these problems don't often have a big impact. In some parts of the US and Middle East where temperatures are regularly exceeding 40°C producers have installed fans, cold water misters and even air conditioning in their sheds! Justifying this capital investment in the UK at the moment would be challenging to say the least.

I've seen quite a few cases of lungworm in grazing growing cattle recently with the tell-tale signs of coughing (especially after moving or handling). Lungworm is one of the most unpredictable of cattle parasites with disease occurring anytime from June to November. The trouble with responding to disease with treatment is that often by the time coughing is noticed a certain amount of lung damage has occurred with the inevitable effects on future growth rates and performance. Preventing cases in the first place with either vaccination or strategic early season treatments (or both) is the way forward. Which strategy is right for your farm depends on lots of factors including when the calves are born or purchased and grazing management. If this has been a particularly bad year for lungworm in your cattle get in touch to talk to us about prevention for next season.