



## Red Tractor changes on the horizon

Most of you will know of Red Tractor, either from your own farm assurance or the familiar logo on your food and drink. The scheme has been around since 2000 and covers 75% of all UK farms, aiming to give consumers a mark of safe, affordable, quality food that is easily recognised and trusted. Red Tractor underpins most assurance schemes including the majority of milk buyers, with our own health plans based on Red Tractor requirements.

For those of you that attended our Responsible Use of Veterinary Medicines meetings you will hopefully be aware of some of the new policies coming this October but for those of you who weren't, keep reading.

Pressure has been building on farmers and vets to reduce antibiotic usage across the industry, as the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) continues to grow. AMR is not a new problem, in fact

Alexander Fleming warned of it back when he discovered Penicillin less than one hundred years ago! However the World Health Organisation and others have warned that we are on the verge of a post antibiotic era, where will we have no treatment for what were previously simple bacterial infections. Raising the key question - Could you farm without antibiotics?

Medicine use is nothing new to farm assurance, with requirements already in place for recording usage and reviewing veterinary treatments with your vet as part of your annual Health Plan renewal. However the latest recommendations go a step further focusing on specific antibiotic classes deemed important to human health. There are two main groups, which are also known as the Critically Important Antibiotics (CIA) and they are the Fluoroquinolones (Marbocyl, Marbox, A180 and Forcyl) and the 3rd & 4th

generation Cephalosporins (including Cobactan, Cefimam, Naxcel and Readycef). The new changes recommend that these classes are not used for routine treatment but instead are used only as a last resort under veterinary direction.

For those of you with supermarket or Barbers Assured contracts, this is something that you are probably working towards but for others it might mean a big change to how you currently operate. At Synergy we are helping in a number of ways from generating antibiotic reports for your farm, including monitoring use of CIA, to recommending alternate products and ways for you to reduce overall antibiotic use. With more changes proposed by the VMD (Veterinary Medicines Directorate) in 2018 and RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture) and other groups have then already made their recommendations it's a good idea to get started **NOW** and ask us how you can do your bit alongside us to tackle the significant threat of AMR.

## August 2017

- Red Tractor changes
- Ischaemic Teat Necrosis
- Meet the team
- Farmer Training
- Regional News
- Events



Graeme talking to a full house on Responsible use of Veterinary Medicines



Josh Swain

# Have you seen Ischaemic Teat Necrosis in your Herd??

## AHDB Dairy funded PhD gets to grip with new disease: Ischaemic Teat Necrosis (ITN)

PhD scientist, Hayley Crosby, a vet from Liverpool University, explains how you can help with her research into a new and emerging disease in dairy cattle, Ischaemic Teat Necrosis (ITN).

ITN presents as a dry, dark red to black area on the skin at the base of the teat (see photos 1) that may extend down the teat towards the teat end and/or up on to the skin of the udder. These lesions are highly irritable to the cow and can cause her to constantly lick her teats until she has removed them (see figure 3). Once the teats have been lost the cow is often culled on welfare grounds. The lesion appears to be mostly confined to the skin and does not directly cause mastitis. Mastitis may however occur due to an inability to milk the quarter and secondary infection (see photo 3).

The cause of the disease, how much disease is present in Great Britain and the risk factors associated with the disease are all unknown. Worryingly, there are anecdotal reports of herds with up to 20% of heifers affected and there are no known effective treatments for this disease. We have certainly seen several cases within the Synergy practice area already.

As the cause of bovine ITN is currently unknown, research into this disease is essential. AHDB Dairy are funding work at the University of Liverpool in an attempt to find some answers. To do this we need your help.



Photo 3. The udder of a cow that was constantly licking her teats. She has removed 2 teats herself and has the same lesion on the 3<sup>rd</sup> teat. (Photograph courtesy of Mike Thorne, Rutland Vets)

We are keen to hear from anyone with experience of the disease no matter how small the information. Please contact your regular Synergy vet in the first instance on 01935 83682. For updates and further information please go to [www.liverpool.ac.uk/BovineITN](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/BovineITN)

**If you think you might have a case then please get in touch.**



Photo 1. ITN lesion on the right hind teat before self-trauma has occurred. There is a dry, dark red to black area that is centred on the base of the teat and extends both down the teat and up on to the skin of the udder.



Photo 2. This heifer had a tyre around her neck to stop her from traumatising her own teats. No other treatments were effective.



**Jon Reader**



### Meet the Team **Donna Male**

Donna works 4 days a week in the accounts office with her workload predominately based around client invoicing, dealing with client queries and entering daily banking. She will also be the person who discusses any overdue balances or payment plans with clients.

Donna previously trained as a butcher before joining the farm office accounts team at Kingfisher vets in 2001 prior to the farm animal merger with Southfield Veterinary Centre to form Synergy Farm Health in 2009. She has been with us for 16 years in total. Donna is married with two children & four grandchildren and lives in the South side of our practice in Somerset.

## Farmer Training

It has been a fantastic year so far for the courses at Synergy Farm Health. It has been great to see so many of you attending courses in order to expand your knowledge and obtain certification for numerous different areas of animal welfare, from the safe use of veterinary medicines to the humane dispatch of sheep.



We are excited to report that The Cattle Lameness Academy have

announced two new courses this year, firstly a **Cattle Mobility Training Course** running on the 10th August and also the first extended **Specialist Trimming/Lameness course in September 2017**. This 4 ½ day course is aimed at anyone interested in gaining advanced knowledge and practical training in foot care. This course will lead to certification by the AHDB Dairy Healthy Feet programme.

At Synergy Farm Health we are always working with farmers

needs in mind, if there are any particular courses that you would like us to run that suit your own farming requirements, we would be only too happy to discuss it with you further. Just give the office a call or contact myself at [rhiannon.purbrick@synergyfarmhealth.com](mailto:rhiannon.purbrick@synergyfarmhealth.com)

I look forward to seeing you all at the shows this summer

Rhiannon Purbrick



### Social Diary

## Crewkerne Farmers Skittle League

The new season for the CFSL, which is sponsored by Synergy Farm Health, starts on 31st August with the individual nomination knock out at the Muddled Man, West Chinnock. Entries forms will be with your captains shortly, along with the new fixture booklets.

A number of teams have changed alley, so please ensure you check the fixture booklet closely! This season sees a new competition for the Fred Broom Memorial trophy, kindly donated by Synergy client Tim Frampton of Burstock Grange, for the individual who attains the most spares in a season (league games

only). Last season we raised over £900 for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and I look forward to an equally successful season this year. Thank you for your continued support.

Ed Powell-Jackson



### Bluetongue (BTV) Update:

The risk of BTV incursion into UK population remains at **LOW status** to reflect the low levels of infection in northern France. DEFRA will continue to monitor the current situation in France and disseminate any further updates from the French Authorities, particularly with regards to the most recent cases. BTV-8 vaccine is available and the decision to vaccinate will be based on consultation with your veterinary surgeon taking into account risk factors of geography and management policies. Please ring the office to arrange a discussion if appropriate.

### FLY CONTROL

### New Environmental Fly Product

**Twenty-One** is a uniquely formulated product for professional use against flies in livestock housing by application to walls and ceilings of cowsheds, piggeries and poultry sheds.

- ◆ *Azamthiphos is the fastest chemical on the market*
- ◆ *The only product available that can be both sprayed and painted*
- ◆ *Effective for 12 weeks*
- ◆ *Attracts insects fast with pheromones and attractants*
- ◆ *See results straight away - kills flies almost instantly*
- ◆ *The only product on the market that can kill by contact or ingestion*

**£93.60**  
+ VAT



### Medicines News

2.5 L	S P O T I N O R	£165 + VAT	Plus FREE Gun
2 x 2.5 L		£305 + VAT	61p per cattle dose
4 x 2.5 L		£595 + VAT	60p per cattle dose
Enovex pour on 2.5 Litres		£35 + VAT	(Ivermectin 0.5%)
Eprecis 2.5L	£165 + VAT	Nil Milk Withhold Wormer	

Prices correct 31/07/2017

Offers end 30/09/2017

# News from our Rounds

## Rachel Hayton



As I write this, the grey skies and rainclouds that always seem to herald the start of the school holidays, are gathering. My eldest son has the challenge of learning to learn to drive this holiday, and, not having benefitted from a tractor, it is all new to him. I think I need to apologise to the driver who had to reverse a quarter of a mile for us because we hadn't done reversing yet! Exactly what normally winds me up when I am out and about, so it is top of the list for the next lesson.

Last week I attended a "Milksure" course designed to address the problem of antibiotic residues in milk. This course, designed to be delivered by us, the vets, is available to all farmers but is likely to become compulsory attendance for those suffering an antibiotic residue failure. It felt a little bit like the Speed Awareness Course, that those of us unfortunate enough to fall foul of a policeman with a speed gun, may have had to attend. (So I have heard....!) I could just imagine the reluctant line up of attendees who end up having a surprisingly useful and interesting day. I learnt a lot and enjoyed the discussions it generated. Perhaps we should offer it alongside our other training courses on a non-compulsory basis. Any takers?

In the meantime watch out for us in the lanes with our L plates on!

## Andy Adler



We seem to be busy with sick cows and abortions. Abortions often occur at this time of year as we have so many cows calving in August and September however the sick cows are more unusual so we are carrying out Post Mortems and often finding chronic problems which then have an acute disease leading to death. Many of the chronic problems are lung related and have been ongoing since having a problem as a calf.

I have just been on holiday to France with the family. Advice-never go to France with family of 3, four boats and a car that is knackered. You will be seeing me with a replacement car shortly-should have arranged it a couple of months ago!

## Alasdair Moffett



Great to see so many of you at Honiton Show, including those showing sheep and cattle. We spotted a few rosettes being handed out to familiar faces. It is always pleasant to have conversation with you when the whirl of the parlour wash is not in the background and our hands are not otherwise engaged inside cows! On a personal note Esme and I were thrilled so many of you got to meet our baby Bonnie.

Think that's the last of this summers whole crop now safely in clamps, and on a clinical note be aware we have been seeing a few milk fevers at grass with dry cows consuming some fresh grass growth post recent rain.

Tuesday this week brings the Ham Hill Discussion Group Summer Farm Walk to the Phillips at Hoemoor Farm. Thanks to the Philips in advance, and we look forward to sharing their approach to maximising non milk income.

## EVENTS

### Ham Hill Discussion Group Summer Farm Walk

Tuesday 8th August  
Hoemoor Farm, Upottery, EX14 9PB

Maximising non milk income from  
the dairy herd

Farm Walk and refreshments

### Practical Calving Course

Tuesday 5th September  
Evershot with Pete Siviter

### 4 Day Professional Foot Trimming

25th—28th September

Visit our website for further details or email  
[courses@synergyfarmhealth.com](mailto:courses@synergyfarmhealth.com)

Come and say hello  
and join us for refreshments  
on our stands at the  
following Agricultural shows  
this summer

### Gillingham & Shaftesbury

Wednesday 16th August

### Melplash Show

Thursday 24th August

### Dorset County Show

Sat 2nd & Sun 3rd  
September