



Changes to Red Tractor Farm Assurance

These changes affect ALL dairy producers from 1st June 2018

- **An annual review of antibiotic use must be undertaken by your vet** - we have developed a specific document to satisfy this requirement which is produced for each farm by our admin team using our records of medicines sold to your herd in the last 12 months. Discussion of this will be included in any update of your HHP.
- **Critically important antibiotics are not permitted** -- this includes all zero milk withhold antibiotics eg Readycef, Naxcel, along with other 3rd/4th generation cephalosporins eg Cefimam MC/DC and fluoroquinolones eg Marbocyl. The only exception to this is where specific diagnostic testing has identified an absolute need for these products to be

used. Documented evidence of testing performed by your vet to support this will be required for the auditor's visit. **The use of zero milk withhold products for convenience and/or to avoid a milk withhold is not a valid reason for their use.** Clients requesting such products from our dispensary will be referred to their routine vet for a discussion before such medicines are prescribed.

- **Medicine records must provide an annual collation of total antibiotic use on farm** - this will be satisfied by both our antibiotic review document and also our records of medicines sold to you in the last 12 months.

June 2018

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It is also **RECOMMENDED** that at least one member of farm staff has attended a training course to indicate competence in medicine administration. Our **safe use of medicines** and **Milksure** courses satisfy this requirement - check out our training course programme for more information



Ed Powell-Jackson
Regional Lead Vet (South)

Dispensary News

We will now be stocking **Bovigen Scour** as a replacement to Rotavec Corona.

Bovigen Scour is used for the active immunisation of pregnant cows and heifers to increase colostrum antibodies against E-coli, Rotavirus and Coronavirus. The success of the vaccine is entirely dependent on calves receiving sufficient colostrum after birth and within the critical

first 6 hours of life. Bovigen Scour is to be administered in the 12-3 week period before calving is expected and only requires a single dose. It is designed for use in both dairy and suckler cows.

Dose	Single 3ml dose IM
Timing of dose	12-3 week period prior to calving
Bottle Sizes	5 dose & 30 dose

If there are any points of clarification or discussion regarding this new product please do not hesitate to contact the practice and speak to dispensary or your veterinary surgeon.



Heat Stress in Cattle

One of the most unpredictable things this Spring seems to have been the weather. We have had frosts in May and at the end of April we had temperatures approaching 30 degrees! Very often we don't see these temperatures until late June and July and by the time we think about putting preventative plans in place the moment has passed for another year. This year maybe there is still time!!

Heat stress in cows is caused by an increase in temperature but it is also a function of humidity (see the table below). Even on days that are not excessively hot cows are likely to start to be affected by heat stress. Cows that are drooling and panting are the extreme and cows will be affected in other less dramatic ways. Cows start to suffer heat stress at temperatures of 22°C and a high humidity.

In temperatures of 29°C and relative humidity of 90% then milk yield can be reduced by up to 33%. Dry matter intake will be reduced as temperatures increase and so diets need to be more

concentrated. However great care needs to be taken to avoid tipping cows into acidosis. Reducing the risk of acidosis is vital and includes the addition of buffers (e.g. sodium bicarb) as well as ensuring sorting does not occur. Tactically feeding cows at cooler times of day has been shown to maintain intakes (60% of ration fed between 8pm and 8am). This will also prevent feed deteriorating so quickly in hot weather.

The main aim to prevent heat stress is to 1) increase heat dispersion while 2) reducing heat production.

Provision of water is vital as in hot weather cows will not want to walk more than 250m to get water. Intakes will increase in hot weather by 10 to 20% so it is vital there is plentiful water available. High yielders may need up to 100 litres of water in hot weather so it is important this is close to shade.

In hot weather cows will tend to not only stand for longer periods but will also group together which will actually

make both heat production increase as well as reducing heat dispersion. There are well established links to explain reduced fertility due to heat stress and increasingly we are seeing

lameness becoming an issue. As more herds are housed during the summer the effect on the feet tends to be seen 6 to 8 weeks after a period of heat stress. This has been put down to the increased standing times associated with heat stress leading to damage to the corium and ultimately bruising and eventually sole ulcers. Now that we know that cows that have had a previous bout of lameness are more likely to have repeat cases it may be worth increasing the frequency of trimming to cows in this at risk group before heat stress becomes established.

Fans seem to be becoming more popular on farms but are often sited in the cubicle house. However one of the main areas that cows congregate to produce heat is the collecting yard and after an hour or so in close proximity it can take several hours for this heat to dissipate (if in fact it does) before the next milking. It is vital to give cows plenty of room to move. Holstein Friesians need at least 3 square metres per cow in the collecting yard (Jersey 2m²). If more than 5% of the herd have their heads up in the collecting yard then they are likely to be overstocked. The collecting yard is therefore an excellent place to position fans as you will get the best return on investment.

The most important message is to act early and get measures in place before the temperature rises again!!

Temperature Humidity Index (THI)									
	Relative Humidity %								
C	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
22	66	66	67	68	69	69	70	71	72
24	68	69	70	70	71	72	73	74	75
26	70	71	72	73	74	75	77	78	79
28	72	73	74	76	77	78	80	81	82
30	74	75	77	78	80	81	83	84	86
32	76	77	79	81	83	84	86	88	90
34	78	80	82	84	85	87	89	91	93
36	80	82	84	86	88	90	93	95	97
38	82	84	86	89	91	93	96	98	100
40	84	86	89	91	94	96	99	101	104

No heat stress (Green)

Moderate heat stress (Yellow)

Severe heat stress (Orange)

Dead cows (Red)

Jon Reader
Director



MilkSure Training

- ⇒ Have you recently suffered a bulk milk residue failure?
- ⇒ Are you worried about the risk of medicines getting into your bulk tank?
- ⇒ Would you like to access medicine training that is Red Tractor compliant?

This interactive session will help you to understand how anti-biotic failures occur, why they matter and how to avoid them. What is the law on medicine use and what are the common pitfalls with withdrawal periods? It also fulfils the Red Tractor HHP requirement for medicine training.

Following on from Part 1 you may wish to complete **Part 2 MilkSure training** which allows you

to carry out an individual risk assessment for your farm. This is carried out (at an extra cost) 1:1 with your vet on your own farm. It leads to a full MilkSure Certificate of Participation and Completion which can be shared with your milk buyer, as well as helping to lower the risk of future bulk tank failures.

4th July

Cost: £35 per person
(Plus £65 farm registration payable to MilkSure)

Mental Health Awareness Week

Not many are aware but May 14th-20th May was Mental Health Awareness week. Unfortunately at the beginning of May, I lost a good friend to mental health issues, so I would like to get the word out about mental health.

So, what is Mental Health? Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood. Over the course of your life, if you experience mental health problems, your thinking, mood, and behaviour could be affected. Many factors contribute to mental health problems, including:

- Biological factors, such as genes or brain chemistry
- Life experiences, such as trauma or abuse
- Family history of mental health problem

Mental health issues can be in the form of depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety problem, eating disorder etc. What are the signs of Mental Health?

- Eating or sleeping too much or too little
- Pulling away from people and usual activities
- Having low or no energy
- Feeling numb or like nothing matters
- Having unexplained aches and pains

- Feeling helpless or hopeless
- Smoking, drinking, or using drugs more than usual
- Feeling unusually confused, forgetful, on edge, angry, upset, worried, or scared
- Shouting at, or fighting with family and friends
- Experiencing severe mood swings that cause problems in relationships
- Having persistent thoughts and memories you can't get out of your head
- Hearing voices or believing things that are not true
- Thinking of harming yourself or others
- Inability to perform daily tasks like taking care of your kids or getting to work or school

It can be very difficult to see someone who you care about or know becoming unwell, but you don't need to be an expert on mental health to offer support. Often small, everyday actions can make the biggest difference.

If you feel you have any signs and you are worried:

- Stay positive
- Get physically active
- Help others
- Get enough sleep
- Keep a mood diary
- Develop coping skills and a plan to help yourself
- Talk to someone you feel comfortable with
- Seek professional help

If you recognise someone else who has signs of mental health issues:

- Talk to them
- Let them know you are there for them
- Ask if they are ok
- Ask how you can help
- Listen to what they are saying
- Respect what they are saying
- Help them get the support they need

Don't:

- Be judgemental
- Try and change the subject if they want to talk about it
- Don't show that you are shocked by what they tell you
- Tell them "pull yourself together" or "cheer up"
- Tell others what that person has said
- Make a joke of it

If someone you know feels suicidal, please support them, talk to them and help them seek professional help. It's not worth losing someone when a few words could be the start of their recovery. People with mental health problems, with the correct treatment and support, will get better and most recover completely.

Rest peacefully my good friend.

**Daryl Foot
Vet Tech**



Meet the Team— Alice Archer

Alice joined the reception team in April 2018 after previously working in a laboratory. Alice grew up within the farming community in the Dorchester area, and is expanding her knowledge of the area Synergy covers!

She joined us to oversee the eastern part of our practice area and enjoys all challenges that come her way.

In Alice's spare time she can be found walking her dogs and socialising...normally not too far away from the bar!

News from our Rounds

East

Tom Shardlow



The long, drawn-out winter and wet spring has led to some interesting challenges for producers on the east side of the practice.

Ewes and lambs that would normally have gone out early in the season often had to be kept in and this resulted in coccidiosis outbreaks in several flocks. Cocci eggs are excreted by all animals at low levels and can persist in the environment for long periods of time. This means that if animals have to be housed for longer than usual the number of eggs in the housing builds up-leading to problems in younger animals.

We found that lambs were ingesting the large number of cocci eggs in the sheds and getting sick. They often continued to scour for long periods of time even after being turned out.

It is worth bearing in mind that cocci eggs can survive in housing (and even on pasture) for over twelve months and routine disinfection protocols often don't completely eliminate them.

Therefore if you have suffered with cocci in your lambs (or calves) this year, please speak to us about how best to disinfect sheds and whether you need to think about strategic dosing to avoid problems next year.

North

Paula Hunt



May is blossoming into a truly beautiful month where I live on the edge of the Somerset Levels, and finally it was warm enough for me to start my weekly inspection of the bee hive. Happily my bees have survived the winter and the queen is laying her eggs in earnest, building up the worker population just in time to take advantage of the fantastic apple blossom in the orchards that surround them, whilst hopefully doing a good job of pollinating the trees in return. Sadly in the last couple of decades, survival of bee colonies from one season to the next is no longer a given. They face many more challenges now from all angles. Just as we are seeing in other farmed stock, the parasitic challenge is on the increase, with globalisation and excessive movement of animals and people allowing new pests and diseases to reach us in the UK. In the US and on the continent, honey producers travel their bee colonies vast distances on lorries to take advantage of different crop harvests, and you might be surprised to know bees are often sent by post in the UK! With (sometimes unscrupulous) bee imports from Europe, it is not surprising that pests and diseases can suddenly 'hop' from one continent to the next, where a whole new population may be totally unprepared for the challenge. Add to this climate change, pesticide use and loss of natural plant species and it's not difficult to see why many insects are finding it hard to adapt. All of which underlines the importance of keeping farming local – whatever the species!

South

Alasdair Moffett



A challenging spring has produced difficult grazing conditions for farms in the South; with a lack of rainfall throughout May for some accounting for stemmier swards and reduced energy and protein content of grass. We have seen the usual Spring spike in abomasal 'twists' with the more common LDAs linked to energy deficiency, and also the rarer RDAs linked to ration changing. Both possibly have an underlying element of Johne's disease involvement, so it is certainly worth knowing the Johne's status of your cows.

I know its already mentioned in this newsletter, but as of 1st June, all 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins (whether injectable or mastitis tubes) and all fluoroquinolones can only be used if there is a culture and sensitivity evidence from that individual cow. For example; a mastitis sample would need to be cultured in the lab, and the specific bacteria grown would not respond to any other antibiotic other than these restricted medicines. These are Red Tractor guidelines that all dairy farms in the UK must abide by. If there is evidence of mis-compliance, farms will be endanger of a breach of contract. Choosing to use a medicine due to its zero milk withhold is not a valid reason for its use. These rules are in place to protect our antibiotics so that in future they continue to work in both humans and animals.

Synergy have been out and about in the last month, being present at the Devon Show this year, with some successful showing by C and K Davis and Esme Moffett of the Old Wolford Dexter Herd. We have also enjoyed 2 young farmer evenings of late, and are always willing to talk to young farmers clubs if requested.

EVENTS

2 Day Foot Trimming
19th & 20th June

DIY AI
26th–28th June

Faecal Egg Counting Course
17th July
at Evershot

MilkSure Course
4th July

Visit our website for further details or email courses@synergyfarmhealth.com

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