

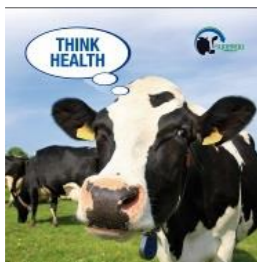
News from our Rounds

East

Tom Shardlow



We're coming to the end of a busy Spring on the east side of the practice. As part of a research project Emily has been phoning a large number of beef and sheep farmers on a weekly basis to find out how lambing and calving has been going. The general impression is that suckler calves are healthier this year with fewer cases of scour-most likely related to being able to get them outside more quickly. On average people have had a good lambing season, however some difficult weather in the first weekend in April presented some challenges. There is a feeling that we have seen more staggers (low magnesium) cases this spring than last in both sheep and cattle. Animals have no body stores of magnesium, and so if there is any reduction in intakes then staggers can follow. All ruminants (old and young) can be affected and are particularly at risk if they are not being fed any concentrates or minerals. Another nasty disease that had reared its head in the past couple of weeks is fly strike in sheep and we have seen a few severe cases. We would strongly advise anyone who has not had their sheep sheared yet to do so as soon as possible and speak to our dispensary team about topical preventive products which are very competitively priced.



South

Bryan Deane



Sitting down to write this article for the June newsletter, I find it hard to believe how quickly my year at Synergy has passed. The heat of last summer, while lovely to work in, brought with it its own share of issues. These ranged from acute problems such as increased incidence of flystrike in sheep to longer standing issues and fodder shortages, and issues with dairy cow fertility as a result of heat stress. Hopefully the coming summer will bring milder temperatures, more suited to livestock comfort and crop growth. It is vital, however to ensure that all stock have constant access to clean water and shade considering the weather trends of recent years. Regular monitoring, especially where animals are at grass or on out-farms is key to ensuring animal welfare is optimised during stressful periods. Control of insects, in order to reduce production losses (be that through fly worry, or more importantly welfare issues such as flystrike) is vital. Please call us if you require any further information on preventative measures such as fly-tags for cattle and pour-on products for cattle and sheep. With the end of the internship rapidly approaching, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the clients whom I have met over the past year for the warm welcome I have received during my time here. The experience I have gained has been invaluable, as has the support received from the Synergy team as a whole. As I prepare to return to Ireland, I wish you all the very best of luck for the future – "Go n-éirí an bóthar libh" as we say in Gaelic.

North

Rachel Hayton



The first cut is in and now all we need is a spot of rain and a good growing season through until autumn! Some of the problems that we tend to see at this time of year are starting to rear their ugly heads, such as milk fever, grass staggers, coccidiosis and plant poisonings. We have seen some unusual problems associated with grazing animals too soon after slurry spreading too. Other issues like fluke have gone a bit quiet but that could change with the weather so keep monitoring! We have been having a great push on BVD control throughout the practice, and in the north region there is currently an increasingly large area with robust controls in place. Here's hoping the rest of the country will follow suit! Once a farm is BVD Free it becomes even more important not to buy it back in; have a plan for incoming stock that involves isolation and testing at the very least. Better still buy BVD accredited or run a closed herd. Biosecurity will never be top of everybody's agenda unfortunately, but this is a disease that we could actually eradicate with collective action! A few toxic mastitis cases have been seen in recently dried off cows; this happens when dirt is accidentally introduced at drying off, or when recently dried off cows are not kept sufficiently clean. We are happy to provide practical drying off training on farm to help avoid this potentially devastating consequence. Do get in touch if you would like to reassess your routine, or would like some help with



CCTV in your Calving Barns



We used a company called Farmers Eye from Dundee <http://farmerseye.co.uk> and as not living at the farm, chose a system where the camera sends images with a Sim Card to multiple designated mobile phones and tablets. This means lambing and calving checks can be done from the comfort of the couch, from a tractor cab or sat at Synergy HQ in

- ### June 2019
- CCTV in your Calving Barns
 - Bony changes in the Foot
 - Tour de Synergy success
 - Sole Ulcer queries
 - Events
 - Meet the team

At the AHDB Beef and Lamb meetings before Christmas we heard about the challenges of supervision during calving and checking calves have had sufficient colostrum with some herds struggling to achieve sufficient colostrum transfer in 20% calves. The merits of CCTV were discussed.

Whilst indoor CCTV is commonly installed for security purposes, anyone on Twitter will have seen endless footage of "zoomed in images" during calving. Key for success of calving and neonatal calf survival includes a smooth calving, prompt intervention if progress is not being made, and #colostrumisgold (20% of bodyweight of colostrum in 24 hours). However, a watched kettle never boils (especially with a shy suckler cow) and over supervision has certainly been shown in sheep to delay lambing. We often want to keep input for sucklers and dairy to a minimum at calving but still ensure calves get a safe delivery and lots of colostrum.

CCTV will not be appropriate for everyone but potential uses could include:

- Increasing calving supervision (Dairy or Beef). We found that this system was also going to be cheaper over more cows than other individual cow technologies which tell you when calving has started.
- Increasing lambing supervision especially for smaller flocks or at the start or tail end of lambing.
- For anyone living away from the main farm wanting to check if visits are needed
- To help assess if calves have sucked colostrum (remember they need 20 minutes of constant sucking to achieve sufficient uptake)
- Recording capability means you can check onset of lambing or calving time- how long has she been on calving? We found this gave us more confidence to allow younger animals in particular to take their full allocation of time i.e. we didn't feel the need to rush in, as we were able to keep a close eye on them!
- Multiple calvings overnight? Look back through the footage and see who belongs to who?
- Security! In addition to the obvious, we had several visitors to the lambing shed including the local badger, fox and tabby cat!
- For training or teaching. Some systems provide filming facilities!



At home, we had cameras installed for ease over Autumn/Winter lambing and to help with suckler heifers sync'd with sexed semen due to calve before the main block. CCTV permitted an ongoing high level of supervision even for the smallest number of animals and when other jobs on the farm (or vetting) meant that 100% supervision might be challenging.

Evershot! The system is available with zoom, night vision and microphones- which have proven useful for us lambing ewes (as lambing ewes vocalise) and permitting of reading primary tags for cattle ID. Whilst it is an extra cost, the potential lambs or calves saved could quickly cover the costs of such a system and the extra hours of sleep. I have uploaded some examples of footage to the

practice's twitter account @SynergyFarmVets. I am happy to discuss further with anyone who is considering installing a system.



Emily Gascoigne
Veterinary Surgeon

*** SEASONAL PRICES ***



FREE
APPLICATOR GUNS
AVAILABLE
Limited supply only,
call for details

SPOTINOR

2.5Ltr £145

Fly Pour On. Deltamethrin.
500 x 10ml cattle dose =
58p per head.
*4-8 week protection
Zero milk withdrawal, 17 days meat



ENOVEX

2.5Ltr £27.50

.5% Ivermectin Pour On



EPRIZERO

6Ltr £250

5mg Eprinomectin Pour On.
Zero milk withdrawal.

Other products are available to suit your needs. Please seek Veterinary/ SQP advice from Synergy Farm Health.

Date of print: 01/06/2019. EOE.
All prices subject to VAT @ 20%

Bony changes in the Foot

When discussing lameness in cattle, it is important to remember that all of the physical structures of the foot are constantly undergoing change and responding to environmental and metabolic influences. A classic example of this is White Line Disease (WLD) in a peak lactation animal walking across stony tracks in the autumn – horn quality is reduced due to the metabolic demands of milk, increased wear is caused by walking long distances, the stones in the track cause her to twist and turn more than usual and the environmental moisture at certain times year makes the sole horn more pliable. Together these effects are a recipe for WLD.

When we are picking up cows' feet, one part of the anatomy that it is impossible to examine (unless things have gone very drastically wrong) is the pedal bone, but this responds to external factors just like everything else and the changes in its structure can have a significant influence over the degree of lameness we see.

The pedal bone, or P3, sits inside the horn of the claw itself and fresh horn is produced from the corium above and below, so that it is simultaneously suspended from the hoof wall and resting on the sole horn. The deep digital flexor tendon attaches to the back of the pedal bone and allows the fetlock to be flexed.

When any bone is put under repetitive stress, it responds by creating more of itself to form a barrier. We are familiar with this in the form of callouses on our own hands (especially in occupations such as carpentry where the same physical action may be repeated hundreds of times every day). When a foot lesion has been present for several months the pedal bone begins remodel itself, often putting out sharp spurs at the area of greatest impact and creating a further source of pain that may be much for difficult to reverse than the original lesion.



In this example the pedal bone has developed considerable spurs or exostoses as a result of a severe slurry heel. In this case the infection reached the flexor tendon itself and the claw had to be amputated.

How do we avoid this happening in our cows?

- Prevention is the best cure – engage with your vet and foot trimmer on the subject of lameness and how to reduce risk factors on your farm
- Prompt treatment of lame cows is essential ('lame' means identifiable leg and 'prompt' means within 24hrs)
- Salvage procedures such as radical resection under local anaesthetic, and claw amputations are a viable option for non-healing lesions

Sound cows are milky cows!

Peter Silviter
Veterinary Surgeon



Sole Ulcer queries—a note from Vet Tech Daryl

I just want to touch upon a concern of mine this month. In the last month, I have had 3-4 people ask me to cut out sole ulcers. Sole ulcers are live tissue making up the corium (quick) which is full of nerves and must therefore be left. If a sole ulcer is cut, this causes unnecessary pain to the cow, bleeding and can cause scar tissue which can then cause problems later on. Cutting away will also often lead to further tissue prolapsing out from the sole ulcer site. Also, cutting into live tissue is classed as a surgical procedure and can only be performed by a vet. The best treatment for a sole ulcer is blocking and (vet prescribed) NSAIDs, such as Metacam or Ketofen. If a cow has a big sole ulcer and blocking doesn't remove enough weight, we try double blocking the cow by gluing a block on top of the first block. NSAIDs reduce swelling and therefore, reduce scaring and speeds up recovery time. Try to avoid bandaging large sole ulcers as it is then harder to remove the weight from the claw as the bandage is then touching the floor. As with many of these lesions the earlier that they are detected and treated either by us or a vet will lead to a much better chance of recovery. I hope this helps answer some questions regarding removing ulcers.

Daryl Foot
Vet Tech



Dairy Apprenticeship Course



Applications have recently opened for the second intake of students on our level 3 Dairy apprenticeship programme which we run in conjunction with Bicton College. This new intake of students will start in September 2019.

This practical programme is based at our premises at Lower Coombe, near Crewkerne, and is aimed at students in Somerset, Dorset and east Devon. Synergy delivers teaching on a variety of dairy related topics, whilst administration and assessment are handled by Bicton College. About 50% is based on farm and practical (eg calving simulation, foot trimming), the other 50% classroom based teaching.

The programme is aimed at students aged 17 and over, with a minimum of one year of on farm experience, including adults who have not previously had any formal dairy teaching. With government funding this course is free for those under 19, £300 for more mature individuals!

We encourage all employers or employees to consider the programme. Feedback from last year's students has been very positive and we are delighted to be involved in training the next generation of dairy professionals.

All enquires and applications should be made to Peter Reed at Bicton College – please see the enclosed leaflet for further information.

Synergy shortlisted for the Antibiotic Guardian Awards



Synergy are proud to be shortlisted for the 4th international Antibiotic Guardian awards. The awards, hosted by Public Health England, which recognise achievements to combat antimicrobial resistance across the world, will take place on June 27th in Birmingham. Antibiotic resistance is a global health threat that we all have a role in tackling. To meet this challenge, the Antibiotic Guardian campaign urges healthcare professionals to take one of a number of pledges to drive down inappropriate antibiotic prescribing.

Tour de Synergy success! #synergyturns10



We had two great days for the Tour this year with the sun making an appearance on both days. We had a total of 30 riders over the two days taking part in multiple routes planned depending on riders capabilities. The routes visited every Synergy site over the two days across Dorset, Somerset and Devon.

Huge thanks to all those who took part, donated and baked cakes!



Day 1 was a great mixture of experienced riders and novice riders. We started the day with the main group leaving Evershot and heading south for a glorious ride heading towards the coast before turning east to head back towards their first stop at Dorset Equine for an energy boost of cake. They then continued east before turning north to meet the less so enthusiastic 25 mile riders at

drink and to see who was suffering the most, I think Alistair Hayton won that competition as he was trying to bribe me to 'accidentally' run over his bike so he didn't have to ride day 2!



Day 2 everyone arrived fresh and keen (except Alastair) and ready for a glorious sunny days ride. After filling up on a breakfast doughnut the riders headed north towards Martock and then onto Langport vets for their first cake stop and a cool down in the shade. The peloton then headed west towards Kingfisher vets in Taunton before turning south towards Honiton New street vets. Prior to Honiton they stopped for

a bit of lunch at Alasdair and Esme Moffett's house and were treated to some more cake by Esme and Bonnie Moffett. They then continued on through Honiton to Axminster Mole Avon where they once again refuelled with the last of the cake. Then it was just the last leg to get back to Crewkerne to finish an epic 80 miles that visited all the west medicine collection points.

It was a great achievement by all and we managed to raise a good amount for our two charities 'The Farming Community Network' and 'Send a cow'.

Emily Alford



Synergy Events

For more information or to book your place, please get in touch with us: call us on 01935 83682, email us on courses@synergyfarmhealth.com, visit our Facebook page or www.synergyfarmhealth.com

Synergy will be running some of their courses at Mole Avon in Axminster. As well as continuing some of our popular courses there, we are also launching a new range of courses:

SUCCESSFUL WEANING MANAGEMENT
MASTITIS WORKSHOP
LAMENESS IN YOUR FLOCK



Coming in June

Practical Calving Course
18th June 10.30am-2.30pm at Mole Avon, Axminster

DIY AI 3 Day Course
25th-17th June 9.30am-4pm at Evershot

Coming in July

Practical Calving Course
4th July 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot

Successful Weaning Management
4th July 10.30am-2.30pm at Mole Avon, Axminster

Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines (General)
11th July 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot

Milk Sure Course
15th July 11am-1pm at Evershot

Meet the Team Jean Gibson

Jean started at Synergy Farm Health at the very beginning in November 2009, helping to set up our dispensary and dispensing medicines to clients. She now has the role of Stock Co-ordinator dealing with all the car and dispensary stock. Jean also co-ordinates with our Buitelaar clients and covers Axminster reception duties on Wednesdays for the South Region.

Jean is married and has 3 grown up sons. In her spare time, she does a lot of reading, genealogy (don't get her started!!) and has a Border Terrier who she is taking to dog training at the moment.



NSA SOUTH WEST EVENT
TUESDAY 18TH JUNE
UMBERLEIGH,
DEVON EX37 9LF



Please do visit us on Stand 75 with our new Hospitality Unit for some cake and a chat. It promises to be a great day, we look forward to seeing you there!

NSA MEMBERS GO FREE!