

News from our Rounds

East

Josie Burrige



Firstly, I'd like to thank all our clients who came to visit us at the Dorset County Show at the start of September. With the beautiful weather and lots of great exhibitors on show an excellent day was had by all. Also, a special congratulations to all those who showed stock or entered other categories and not forgetting the Synergy Tug of War team that put up a valiant effort but maybe requires some fine tuning for next year's show!



As Autumn draws in we are now well and truly at the end of a busy summer at Synergy. Summer always brings a varied caseload with our regular fertility routine work, plenty of TB testing, sick animals and the odd summer calving. I hope that this summer has treated you slightly better than last year and your silage pits are looking fuller!

Now is the perfect time to re-evaluate your calf housing as we come into one of our main risk periods. Small changes can make huge differences and you will reap the benefits tenfold. If you have issues with calf pneumonia, then please give us a call. We have a dedicated Youngstock team who would be more than happy to pop out for a visit and advise on changes that can be made to increase calf health and welfare. Remember these animals are the future of your Herd so rearing the best calves possible will set you up for success!

South

Clare Eames



Welcome to Tabitha Moffett born 16th September, congratulations team Moffett! Secondly in new arrivals some of you will have already seen Caroline Perry back on farm in her Synergy waterproofs. We are delighted she has found the time to join us again and hope that Stuart remembers to pick the kids up from school...

I have seen a few cases of Redwater in September in herds that haven't had any for a few years. Prevention is still better than cure and the production losses will be great in animals suffering from the infection. Please speak to us regarding future prevention tactics if this has been a problem on your holding.

Due to ongoing Scab issues around the country please be aware when buying in replacement breeding stock that it is now possible to blood sample to test for exposure to scab to both avoid production losses and prevent the overuse of treatment products. We are seeing increasing resistance of the Scab mites to both moxidectin (Cydectin) and doramectin (Dectomax) which only leaves plunge dipping if you are unfortunate enough to need to treat it. We are all now very aware of wormer resistance and should be using either Zolvix or Startect as quarantine wormer drenches but also remember that there are cases of triclabendazole resistant fluke also. Please discuss alternatives with us. Finally one of the most important things is still to keep new stock in isolation for at least 3 weeks prior to introducing to the rest of the flock.

North

Pete O'Malley



It's hard to believe it's only been four months since I joined the team, but I already feel part of the furniture. I have been warmly welcomed onto all your farms for which I am very grateful, and it has been a pleasure meeting you all.

For those of you I'm yet to meet, hello! I'm the newest member of the North team, based in Taunton where I live with my wife and daughter. I've been working in the South West since 2012 and my last job was at Langford Vets, University of Bristol, where I was involved with clinical teaching of final year veterinary students.

I'm now part of the teaching team here at Synergy, delivering the clinical farm animal rotation to vet students from the Royal Veterinary College. Teaching and training is something I really enjoy, but so too is my clinical work, with a large part of my job being part of the North vet team.

I'm writing this having just got back from the 10 year celebration party, and it reminded me of the Synergy launch party 10 years ago that I attended as a veterinary student on work experience whilst camping near Crewkerne. It's a great feeling to know that I'm now part of the team and no longer having to live in a tent or visit farms on a push bike! Although driving to the party this year with my daughter did mean substantially less cider was consumed than a decade ago. Here's to the next 10 years!



National recognition of outstanding achievement by Synergy Staff



Synergy could not be prouder of our sheep specialist **Emily Gascoigne**, who reached the final three in the 2019 Farmer's Weekly Awards "Livestock Advisor of the Year" category. A number of clients and colleagues travelled to London on October 3rd to support Emily at the awards presentation. Whilst not the outright winner, recognition at these national awards confirms Emily's reputation as one of the leading sheep vets in the UK. *Congratulations Emily!*

In September **Mark Burnell** received his fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (FRCVS), which is the equivalent of a veterinary knighthood! Awarded for meritorious contributions to the profession, this award is the highest accolade a vet can receive, and is recognition of the incredibly high standards of clinical practice that Mark has demonstrated to both his clients and colleagues throughout his career. *Well done Mark!*



October 2019

- Practice Progress with Antibiotics
- Health Planning & NEW Red Tractor requirements
- Synergy's 10 Year Celebration Open Day a great success
- NEW CowSignals and Smallholder courses
- Events
- Regional News
- Dispensary Updates

Practice Progress with Antibiotics

In conjunction with the hard work of the dairy team at the practice, **#teamsheep** have made huge progress with regards to antibiotics. The Industry guidelines are generated with RUMA (the Responsible Use of Medicines Alliance) and have identified areas of interest for the sectors.

The key areas of focus for the sheep sector include:

- ◇ Oral antibiotics in lambs
- ◇ Antibiotic consumption as part of lameness control
- ◇ Antibiotic usage for abortion management

A practice median abortion percentage of <1% (less than half of the recommended intervention percentage)

All flocks (farm assured or otherwise) will have an antibiotics analysis report generated for their holding at annual review and key areas of usage can be identified. We can see from this report when antibiotics are being used and how this compares to similar flocks.



Fundamentally, we drive down antibiotic usage by having healthier animals requiring less antibiotics and reducing performance limiting disease.

We have managed to achieve as a team (vets and farmers together!):

- ◇ 42% reduction in oral antibiotics in neonatal lambs
- ◇ A practice mean of 5.85mg/PCU, which is 40% lower than previous industry estimates

Top tips for reducing usage for your flock:

- ◇ Speak to one of the sheep team about the lameness five point plan to ensure that you get the

most from your antibiotic investment. PRE-TUPPING is a good time to finalise this.

Speak to one of the team about forage analysis for preserved forage to help with diet preparation. PRE-SCANNING is a good time to run this.

Culling is an important tool to reduce problems in the subsequent year. Three times lame in a season is a culling criteria as is mastitis.

Data is power. Recording offender ewes will make culling easier! Review your flock health plan



As a team we are ahead of RUMA's targets- lets keep heading on our trajectory.



Emily Gascoigne Veterinary Surgeon

HOUSING PROMOTIONS FOR CATTLE



BIMECTIN PLUS

500ml £70

Ivermectin/clorsulon injection Ivomec Super equivalent



ENDOFLUKE

2.5Ltr £48 5Ltr £82
10% Triclabendazole drench



EPRIZERO

2.5Ltr £125 6Ltr £250
Eprinomectin Pour on



ENOVEX

2.5Ltr £27.50
Ivermectin Pour on

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

Date of print: 04/10/2019. EOE. All prices subject to VAT @ 20%

Health Planning & **NEW** Red Tractor requirements



From 1st October 2019 there are new requirements for dairy herd Red Tractor accreditation. These bring the Red Tractor

requirements more in line with some of the premium supermarket milk contracts. Our Synergy Farm Health Herd Health Plan will ensure you comply with the new requirements. The health plan review is a great time to take off the wellies and review disease levels, evaluate the effectiveness of current protocols and ensure any new requirements are addressed. For the full list of requirements visit the red tractor website: www.assurance.redtractor.org.uk. Some new requirements are highlighted here:

Infectious disease management – Your vet should be involved in formulating bespoke control plans for your farm for both BVD and Johnes disease

- All farms MUST be working towards BVD eradication and have an individual plan made in conjunction with your vet.
- All farms MUST have a Johnes disease control plan AND be signed up to the National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP) by an accredited Johnes advisor – our vets are accredited advisors.

A protocol MUST be in place for the use of Anti-slip supports (Shackles/Hobbles) – this is included in the new version of the Synergy Farm Health health plan and requires regular checking of the leg attachments for pain/swelling. The ID of cows with shackles must be recorded and if applied for more than one month should be assessed by a vet. They are not a long term solution and if a cow has them on for >3 months they should be reassessed and euthanasia considered if still not stable without them.

Medicines

- At least one person who administers medicines MUST have undertaken training since 2016 and have a certificate of competence.
- We run courses that will satisfy this requirement, please call reception for further information on 01935 83682. Coming up next are:

Safe use of Medicines (Sheep)

Thursday 10th October at Synergy Farm Health, Evershot



Safe use of Medicine (General)

Thursday 24th October at Synergy Farm Health, Evershot

Milksure Course Part 1

Tuesday 29th October at Mole Avon Country Stores, Axminster



- Annual review of antibiotics MUST be undertaken – as part of the SFH health plan we produce a benchmarking report so you can monitor how your use compares to other farms and make recommendations on how to reduce use.
- You MUST inform your vet if there is a bulk tank antibiotic failure within 1 week of the incidence – We can help identify the risk factors on Milksure training courses.
- Pain relief protocols MUST be in place for painful procedures such as disbudding and castration and conditions such as lameness and mastitis. Anti-inflammatories such as Metacam and Ketofen are now required to be administered during any painful procedure.

Tom Clarke
Veterinary Surgeon



Synergy's 10 Year Celebration Open Day a great success!

A great time was had by both Synergy staff and clients at our 10 Year Celebration on Saturday 14th September. The weather was very kind and there was a fantastic atmosphere. It was a wonderful day with celebrations running into the evening with a hog roast and disco. We hope that you were able to join us and had a good time.

This celebration would not have taken place if without all the loyalty and support our clients have shown Synergy Farm Health over the last decade!



NEW Courses at Synergy Farm Health

'Setting Up Your Smallholding' Course

This brand new course for 2019 is designed for beginner smallholders. The course covers the relevant legislation with particular reference to the medicines and movements regulations. We will review handling of pigs, sheep and poultry and a basic introduction on TB testing cattle. There will be an introduction to the common ailments affecting these species, with a particular focus on relevant vaccinations. In the afternoon there will be a visit to a nearby established smallholding to chat further about housing and handling facilities and to share top tips.



Call 01935 83682 to book your place!

CowSignals Workshop

Cows send out useful information every moment of the day. You just need to know how to read the signals. CowSignals training educates dairymen in the field of practical dairy farming. The focus is on cows' demands on their environment, feed and care, dairy farming is about cows after all! The CowSignals workshop informs and educates with instructive and practical training. The advice given is based on scientific knowledge.

Workshop Programme

We start with an interactive lecture in the morning. In the afternoon we visit a nearby farm for a practical workshop. After the workshop you receive a certificate and a practical checklist for your own farm.



Call 01935 83682 to book your place!

Coming in October	
Milksure Course	7 th Oct 11am-1pm at Evershot
Sheep Lameness Course	8 th Oct 10am-2pm at Mole Avon, Axminster
ROMS Registered Mobility Scoring Course	9 th Oct 10am-4pm at Lower Coombe
Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines (Sheep)	10 th Oct 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot
2 Day Foot Trimming Course	14 th -15 th Oct 9.30am-4pm at Lower Coombe
DIY AI 3 Day Course	15 th -17 th Oct 9.30am-4pm at Evershot
Practical Calving Course	17 th Oct 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot
Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines (General)	24 th Oct 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot
NEW CowSignals Workshop	29 th Oct 9am-4pm at Evershot
Milksure Course	29 th Oct 11am-1pm at Mole Avon, Axminster

Synergy Events

For more information on Synergy Events, please get in touch with us: call 01935 83682, email courses@synergyfarmhealth.com, visit our Facebook page or our website www.synergyfarmhealth.com.

Coming in November	
NEW Setting up Your Smallholding	14 th Nov 10.30am-2.30pm at Lower Coombe
Milksure Course	25 th Nov 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot

Meet the Team Kath Best

For those that have visited and collected dispensary goods from Bartlett's Country Store in Bere Regis, you are likely to have come across Kath. Kath has worked for Synergy Farm Health for 9 years and part of her role involves successfully running the Synergy desk in store & advising re POM-VPS products and other consumables. Having qualified as an R-SQP in 2009, Kath is able to advise on products for farm, companion and equine species. Kath trained in agriculture on leaving school and has had experience in working in milking cows, as a stock person and being involved in lambing. Kath's keen interest in farming developed and now she runs her own flock of sheep.

