

# News from our Rounds

East

## Mark Burnell



The recent warm damp weather has been ideal for a late surge in ticks and Redwater in those areas that are prone, but also on some farms where it hasn't appeared for a while. With Redwater younger animals are more likely to survive so if there is an option next year put these on the risky pastures. Don't forget that due to hard work from our very own Tom Clarke we now import a vaccine from France which is a very useful preventative measure – but think of it early enough as it needs two doses one month apart and needs a veterinary assessment to inform correct use and timing.

The weather will also be favouring worms in sheep and in my experience these autumn infections often catch people out. Remember to give those housing doses of wormer to cattle coming in off their first grazing season too!

When the rain started it didn't stop and many were unable to get the maize in when it was ready. This may affect feed value going forwards but so far I have seen problems more from the green maize being fed as last year's stocks run out. This is usually in the form of a good old 'digestive' issue and really just needs plenty of fluids and some decent fibre. Remember that once clamped the maize will soften and starch availability will increase- it will probably be at it's best after 2-3 months so another sample then may help ration formulation.

South

## Ed Powell-Jackson



Firstly many thanks to the numerous clients who sent cards and presents on the safe arrival of my daughter Daisy, who arrived on time at the end of August. Mother and baby continue to do well. Home life is certainly hectic!

Several of our herds have suffered lungworm outbreaks this autumn, with coughing, milk drop and condition loss the main signs. Freshly calved heifers in particular have been seriously affected, with several quality milking animals written off. The weather conditions this summer seem to have favoured this unpredictable parasite, and when combined with worming strategies that result in poor immunity, we have seen serious outbreaks. Next year on these units we will be using Huskvac to try and stimulate immunity early in the animals' life and prevent a repeat performance.

We continue to roll out the BVD Stamp Out scheme, which funds BVD investigation and PI hunts. We have recently applied for a further tranche of funding to enable more farms to sign up to this scheme, which is open to all cattle holdings. If you are interested and did not sign up at the initial run of farmer meetings please contact us to take advantage. We have also been busy completing Johnes plans for the National Johnes Action plan, to which all dairy farms who are Red Tractor Assured must sign up. Given the potential link with Crohn's disease in humans this disease is on the radar of all milk purchasers. All cattle farmers whether beef or dairy should be making efforts to control this costly disease.



North

## Charlotte Moulard



What a wet October we've had! The mild, wet conditions have brought with it a deluge of sheep parasite issues, with Haemonchus populations exploding all over the practice. Some of our autumn lambing flocks have really struggled with the blood sucking gut worm which causes anaemia and weight loss in any age of sheep. If concerned, performing a worm egg count will help us diagnose the condition.



Earlier this month we had our annual large flock road trip, which this year saw a minibus of sheep farmers travelling up to Rutland to visit the Leighfield Lleyn flock. The flock comprised 1800 commercial and 200 pedigree Lleyn ewes managed on a large estate and provided plenty of food for thought and discussion. The evening did not end quite so successfully, as the minibus broke down on the way home and the return trip took close to 11 hours! The group proved fantastically stoic, with plenty of jokes and chat to fill the endless hours of waiting on the A303. One memorable quote from the evening included "I've not stayed up until 4am for years!" In other news, there has been quite a bit of cattle lungworm around - chat to your vet if concerned to make sure you have an appropriate treatment plan in place at or around housing.



## Synergy MD Andrew Davies finalist for Animal Health Advisor of the Year in 2019's Food & Farming Industry Awards



Following an extensive judging process, we are very proud to announce that our MD Andrew Davies is representing the Synergy Team as a finalist in this year's Food & Farming Industry Awards for the **Animal Health Advisor of the Year Award**. The awards will take place at the House of Commons on Fri 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019. We know you will join us in wishing him the very best of luck.

## November 2019

- Synergy MD Andrew Davies finalist for Animal Health Advisor of the Year
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## Tackling TB on your farm

### Updates on TB

- ◆ The average length of a TB breakdown is currently 8 months
- ◆ 40% of herds in the HRA have never had a breakdown

### TB Farm Data Pack

In 2018 APHA introduced the **TB Farm Data Pack** – an individual farm report summarising the details of all new TB breakdowns. You may have received one of these and filed it away as yet more official paperwork. But these reports can sometimes provide us with some useful clues as to the origins of a TB infection, and therefore some meaningful ways in which a recurrence might be prevented. Due to data protection laws we are not allowed to have these reports sent directly to us, which is frustrating as they should provide an ideal opportunity for us to work together on tackling TB on your farms. So if you receive a report from APHA **PLEASE** share it with your routine vet or just send it in to the practice and we will be glad to study it to see if there is any useful information to be pulled out.

### Herd Health Planning Meeting

Similarly If you have an annual **Herd Health Planning Meeting** this should be another opportunity for vet and farmer to discuss and work together on what may be the most challenging disease on your farm.

### FREE TB Advisory Services (TBAS) Visits/ Telephone Advice

Some of you will have taken advantage of the

**free TBAS visits or telephone advice** – if you haven't, be aware this is a time limited scheme and may be drawing to a close next year. Visits are available to any cattle holding, whether under restriction or not. Just contact us - we have TBAS vet advisors within the practice who will ring you back to book in your **free** visit, or just chat through **any** TB related queries (from slurry handling to AFUs to movements), as well as farm biosecurity. All we need is your SBI number to unlock the funding. The feedback from many farmers is that this can be a really valuable visit, much more so than they expected!

### Watch out for some new TB initiatives coming soon:

- ◆ Opportunities for you to use **private blood testing** (gamma or Enferplex) to target individuals or small groups of animals. APHA must still approve these requests but are under more pressure to do so following the Godfray review – giving potential for you to be more in control on your farm.
- ◆ A 'new improved' skin test – a single 'defined antigen' injection to replace the two tuberculin injections – this is now at the field trial stage. This will also differentiate between vaccinated and infected animals, paving the way for **vaccination** to be introduced.
- ◆ **PCR testing** of TB lesions – should lead to much more rapid M. bovis (TB) confirmation from post mortem lesions

than waiting for standard culture. ◆ **Improved culture** techniques for non-visible lesion( NVL) cattle – again improving the diagnostic reliability for Reactors that appear to be lesion-free at slaughter.

### Badger Cull Areas

Statistics and reports are coming out from the **badger cull areas** at various stages, and as with all statistics these can seem conflicting and contradictory, and can be subject to biased reporting. The general picture is that in Gloucester and Somerset there are some promising reductions in bovine TB, with Dorset showing less of an effect so far, and that movement of badgers may increase in the short term following population reductions, which provides us with an extra challenge. The Godfray Review of the Government's TB Strategy underlines the fact that this is a multifactorial disease which requires us all to work together to combat but that, while wildlife has an important role to play, cattle factors and farm biosecurity policies are still very much at the heart of the issue.

As always, [www.tbhub.co.uk](http://www.tbhub.co.uk) and [www.tbknowledgeexchange](http://www.tbknowledgeexchange) can provide you with further help and information on all things TB.



**Paula Hunt**  
Veterinary Surgeon  
Lead TB Tester

## HOUSING PROMOTIONS FOR CATTLE



### BIMECTIN PLUS

500ml £70  
Ivermectin/clorsulon injection  
Ivomec Super equivalent



### ENDOFLUKE

2.5Ltr £48 5Ltr £80  
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: 01/11/2019. EOE. All prices subject to VAT @ 20%

## Warts and all

Warts are a common occurrence in cattle and are seen mainly in youngstock. They can cause economic losses, particularly when selling animals and occasionally cause more serious problems.

Cattle warts are caused by a highly contagious and infectious papilloma virus, which spreads from an infected animal to a non-immune individual. The virus is species-specific, meaning humans cannot catch warts from cattle and vice-versa. Humans have their own papilloma virus causing warts and verrucas and the disease is much the same, giving rise to benign skin lumps with no systemic effects. Usual sensible precautions of wearing gloves and disinfecting hands is still recommended. This papilloma virus is spread by close contact between animals and also carried on clothing, and on equipment such as halters. It will live in buildings or on fences, but can be killed by disinfection.

The warts themselves vary in size and appearance, ranging from smooth circular masses to irregular cauliflower-type lesions and small ragged lesions:



There are different strains of the virus, each having a predilection for a different part of the body. Warts are usually seen around the head and shoulders, but may be seen on more delicate areas such as teats or the vagina.

Often they protrude from a stalk containing a blood vessel and may be single masses or present in large numbers.

Warts are usually seen in animals less than 2 years of age, as the immune system is not fully developed before this. In most cases, the animal mounts an immune response and the warts drop off naturally. Immunity can be slow to develop and it may take up to a year for them to resolve. Once recovered, the animal will be immune to that virus strain and they shouldn't reoccur. It is not effective to isolate affected animals from others to try and limit the spread - due to the virus' long incubation period (the time taken from initial infection to the development of clinical signs), the whole group has likely already been exposed.

Infectable antibiotics and topical 'blue' or 'purple' sprays will also not work, and our usual advice would be to leave them alone. Occasionally however, warts create secondary problems due to their location, commonly on teats or the tissues surrounding the eye, and removal is necessary. Mastitis risk is increased when they present on the udder in dairy animals and it may be impossible to milk the quarter. There are various veterinary options for removal, such as surgery - done standing by a vet under local anaesthetic, using burdizzos ('pinching' the wart off) or chemical treatment using a salicylic acid mixture applied frequently. Sometimes a rubber castration ring is applied with success, but it is worth discussing this with your vet before doing this; these warts often have a significant blood supply and you run the risk of introducing infection as well as the need to

These photos show a smooth wart removed due to its proximity to the surface of the eye. In this case we removed only the offending mass; the other warts dropped off with time.



Unfortunately in a very small number of cases, the location and nature of the wart prevent successful removal. Below is a photo of an in-calf dairy heifer severely affected and sent on as a cull once calved:



assess appropriate methods of analgesia. If warts are an issue, it is important to know the infectious disease status of the farm, particularly BVD. The presence of a persistently infected animal will have a dampening down effect on the immune system of other cattle preventing them from clearing the papilloma virus; and PI animals themselves may present as the only animal in a group severely affected by warts.

If the numbers of animals affected and the severity of the lesions warrants it, there is the option of using an autogenous vaccine, to reduce the numbers of animals becoming infected and hasten the recovery of animals already affected. This involves us taking wart tissue from several cattle and a vaccine prepared that is specific to the strain of papilloma virus on the holding. We have recently used this approach in a milking herd with good results. Please speak to us if you would like more information.

The take home message would be not to worry about warts unless they present in an area that will potentially cause problems in the near future, then it is better to remove sooner rather than later.

Claire Rudd  
Veterinary Surgeon



## Understanding Dermatitis

Dermatitis is an infection of the skin caused by a type of bacteria called Treponemes. In cows' feet the most common form is digital dermatitis (DD) which forms lesions above the heel bulbs between the two digits/claws.

Dermatitis can also be found at the front of the foot or between the claws where it is called interdigital dermatitis (IDD). It can also infect the udder cleft which my fellow foot trimmer affectionally calls "stinky teats" as smell is normally the first way of detecting it!

DD was first found in Italy in the seventies and has spread worldwide. The patterns of infection have many similarities to mastitis, and as a result DD has been referred to as 'Mastitis of the Foot' by some.

The Treponeme bacteria that cause DD are found in the gut of cows and can be passed out in cow faeces. They are very active and slurry provides them the perfect way to spread. However, they only survive in slurry for a relatively short period of time (<24hrs at 17 degrees C).

It is the DD lesions themselves that are the main reservoir of infection, shedding treponemes into the environment and increasing the risk to uninfected cows.



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www.afs.ca.uky.edu/dairy/understanding-digital-dermatitis

Breaking the cycle of dermatitis is very difficult, as not all cows with lesions are visibly lame so this places an emphasis on detection of DD.

Early treatment with a topical antibiotic and bandage for 48 hrs is effective at healing lesions of DD. However, the treponemes bacteria are very resilient and can 'bury' themselves into the foot on more developed lesions.

It is widely accepted that once a cow has DD it may heal but will never cure. The DD lesions are dormant in the skin follicles and regular foot bathing will keep them dormant. This is why flare ups are often seen when there is a break in foot bathing.

Prevention through regular Foot bathing with copper sulphate or formalin remains the most effective way of staying on top of DD. To make real improvements a concerted effort to treat the reservoir of treponeme producing lesions is required.

James Perrett  
Vet Tech



## 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	
<b>NEW</b>	<b>Setting up Your Smallholding</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am-2.30pm at Lower Coombe
	<b>Milksure Course</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot

Coming in December	
	<b>Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines (General)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 10am-2pm at Evershot
	<b>Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines (General)</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 10am-2pm at Mole Avon, Axminster
	<b>Sheep Faecal Worm Egg Count Course</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10am-3pm at Evershot
	<b>Safe Use of Veterinary Medicines (Sheep)</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot

Coming in January	
	<b>CowSignals Workshop</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 9am-4pm at Evershot
	<b>Practical Calving Course</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan 10.30am-2.30pm at Evershot
	<b>2 Day Foot Trimming Course</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup> Jan 9.30am-4pm at Lower Coombe
	<b>DIY AI 3 Day Course</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> -23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 9.30am-4pm at Evershot
	<b>Lameness in Your Flock</b> 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 10am-2pm at Evershot
	<b>ROMS Registered Mobility Scoring Course</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 10am-4pm at Lower Coombe

## Synergy Client Phil Trim raises over £17,000 for Dorset Cancer Centre in memory of wife Jane



Phil Trim - whose wife Jane was cared for at Poole Hospital while she had lung cancer, organised The Purbeck Coast Tractor Run and Fun Event Weekend back in August in a bid to raise money for Dorset Cancer Centre. Phil and son Ben presented a cheque of over £17,000 to the centre on 28th October, marking a year since Jane's death. Jane was a loyal and well known client of Synergy and we were proud to have supported the Tractor Run to play a small part in helping raise money for those affected by cancer.

## Meet the Team John Ward

John joined Synergy in November 2009 and had previously been a CNC driller for circuit boards. A stalwart of our team, he has been a Synergy medicines delivery driver for the last 10 years and visits all of our centres on a daily basis. Outside of work, John's hobbies included sea fishing, gardening and spending time with his family. John's claim to fame was being on "Seaside Rescue" in 2004, after falling over a cliff and breaking his ankle.

