



xLvets
Excellence in Practice

Newsletter

**August
2011**

01935 83682

www.synergyfarmhealth.com
United for strength, unique for service

IS YOUR FARM TEAM STRETCHED?

NEW SYNERGY PARA+ LIVESTOCK SERVICES COULD HELP

Synergy Para+ is a new health planning service run by vet-trained operatives called Paraprofessionals. Visiting your farm fully equipped with a sophisticated restraining crush the valuable extra team member can help take all the hassle out of administering pre-housing or turnout vaccinations, boosters and wormers, gathering stock for administering medication, blood and TB testing or DEFRA inspections.



Synergy Para+ incorporates three key features

- ◆ **A vet devised tailored health programme for your farm.** This ensures that the timing of all medicines, treatments or vaccinations are done to give maximum efficacy and, where possible, administered with other compatible treatments. All procedures follow best practice protocols, which provides confidence that your animals are receiving the most effective protection or treatment, and saves you time managing and recording your medicine information. The weighing platform also ensures that your animals receive the correct dosage at the most efficient cost.
- ◆ **A sophisticated handling system.** Our fully mobile double chambered crush can be used in the farmyard, or even out in the field, and includes a flexible corral system which can hold up to fifty 300 kg animals. The crush features restraining devices suited to handle youngstock through to a fully grown bull. The second chamber can be used as a collecting chamber and also includes a weighing platform ideal for monitoring heifer growth.
- ◆ **A fully vet-trained operative.** All the paraprofessionals are fully trained on how to administer medicines and set up the handling system. All work done is fully recorded to also ease the administration burden.



Synergy Para+ is a cost effective cattle handling and health planning service for further information, or to make your booking, call Heidi White on 01935 83682.

SYNERGY AT THE SHOWS

By the time this edition reaches you, Honiton Show will have passed. However we hope to meet as many of you as possible at the **Gillingham and Shaftsbury Show** on Wednesday 17th August. We look forward to having our recently retired farm office member Lorna Scudder at **The Melpash Show** on Thursday 25th August and don't forget the **Dorset County Show** which runs over two days Sat 3rd and Sun 4th September.

Please come and have some refreshments and meet representatives of the practice at these local shows where you can also find out more about our new Para+ Livestock Services and maybe even take advantage of our Show booking offer!

**Show offer
32% off**

NEW TEAM MEMBER

Gareth Foden BVetMed MRCVS joined the practice last month becoming the newest member of the Synergy team. Gareth is a newly qualified Vet from the Royal Veterinary College in London and will be with us for 1 year as an intern in collaboration with the RVC. This is a new scheme which will enable us to provide more intensive training to hopefully produce vets better suited to the farming industry.

Gareth originates from rural Shropshire where he saw most of his farm practice and is now settling down in Bere Regis - currently trying to get to grips with the area and local watering holes. Gareth is a big fan of the outdoors and many sporting activities including tennis, squash, cricket, golf and many more.



SEPTEMBER CELEBRATION

We are pleased to announce that on Sunday 11th September we will be holding a lunchtime celebration. This follows the tremendous achievements of one of the Directors, Mark Burnell who won Livestock Advisor of the Year in the 2010 Farmers Weekly Awards and two of our clients Neil Baker, who won Dairy Farmer of the Year and John Hoskin who took the awards for both Beef Farmer of the Year and the overall prize of Farmer of the Year.

TACKLING TB

You will be aware of the recent government announcement with regard to further methods of tackling TB including a proposed way forward for licensed culling of badgers in limited areas. Further information is available on the DEFRA Website, and we look forward to slow but sure progress.

RESPIRATORY DISEASE CONTROL

During the summertime you probably don't see a lot of pneumonia (BRD = bovine respiratory disease) in your calves. However, it is a good time to prepare for the Autumn/Winter risk period and think about prevention of BRD. The economic losses of a BRD outbreak in your herd include the cost of drugs, vet time, weight loss and reduced daily weight gain and consequent delayed time to finishing, reduced sale value and extra farm labour costs.

Not only the obviously sick animals suffer losses, also a high percentage of other animals in the group will be affected although they show no clinical signs. The total costs for a beef calf with pneumonia is estimated to be £ 80 which is roughly 2.5X the vet med costs.

As another part of the South West Healthy Livestock Initiative the "Respiratory strand" will be launched in September 2011. The SWHLI funding program (70% funded) includes 4 hrs to have a vet on the farm to do a full building/ventilation risk assessment as well as taking samples for diagnosis of respiratory bugs if required.

There will be two free meetings one in the East and one in the West side of the practice area on 15th and 16th of September. We are very lucky to have Jamie Robertson of Livestock Management Systems Ltd, Aberdeen attending the launch of the programme. He is a specialist in assessment of farm buildings regarding health issues and will give an interesting talk and demonstration. We will also talk to you about risks and causes of BRD, prevention and control as well as about treatment of clinical cases.

Please let the office know if you would like to attend one of the BRD awareness meetings



EMBRYO TRANSFER SERVICE FOR BEEF AND DAIRY CLIENTS

NEW

Do you want to:

- ⇒ Get a 'problem' cow (repeat breeder) into calf?
- ⇒ Improve the genetics of your herd?
- ⇒ Be able to afford pedigrees/families without having to buy stock into your closed /high health status herd?
- ⇒ Breed a larger number of daughters from a good cow in your herd?

Great! Because Synergy Farm Health are offering a new service to help drive the fertility on your farm forward.

We are able to offer a range of services:

- ◆ Storage of pedigree embryos and semen
- ◆ Synchronisation of groups of recipients
- ◆ Arranging embryo flushing – harvesting embryos from pedigree/valuable cows
- ◆ Embryo implantation – pedigree and commercial embryos implanted into recipients on your farm
- ◆ 'Repeat breeder' service – improve the chance of conception in a cow you are struggling to get into calf.

Embryo transfer is often seen as an expensive game for the few, but it has been shown to be of great value for commercial farm businesses. To discuss how we could help you, please contact Caroline Perry in the office.

WANTED

Do you have an old Liquid Nitrogen AI flask that is in good condition but no longer in use on your farm? If so, please call Caroline Perry at the Evershot Office, as we are looking to purchase one.

CATTLE HANDLING COURSE

Miriam Parker who is a cattle handling system expert with considerable experience and reputation internationally will be running a handling course for the practice in October. Places will be limited, please phone the farm office on 01935 83682 to register your interest.

DISPENSARY NEWS

After just over two years we are pleased to be able to supply (Leo) Ubro Yellow milking cow tubes again. We are also expecting to have Bovilis BVD in 5 and 10 dose packs available this month, and Toxovax should also be available by the end of September.

Dairy Hygiene Service

We would like to give you prior notice of a new Dairy Hygiene service supplying Dairy Chemicals and integrating with our Udder Health advisory services. We aim to have this up and running by the beginning of September and further details will follow shortly. Sarah Wilton, who will be familiar to some of you, will be managing this service.

LOWLAND GAMES

A late entry was put in the raft race on Sunday 31st July at Thorney by Master Darke representing Synergy and the Seavington. Grateful thanks to the Holloway Family for loaning the craft. Well done to the crew who completed the mile course along the Parrett negotiating dense weed and disintegrating craft! The crew were Chris Gasson, Matt Cox, Julian Cossar from Langport and Jereme Darke. The four day Games are held annually raising monies for local deserving charities.

GAMEBIRD POST-MORTEM SPECIAL

Synergy Farm Health has a number of vets with a keen interest in gamebird rearing and health. It is now the time of year when we see a lot of the common gut problems in birds. Most problems are easy to diagnose on a fresh post mortem specimen(s) and we can usually get a **diagnosis the same day** and get the correct treatment out to you straight away.



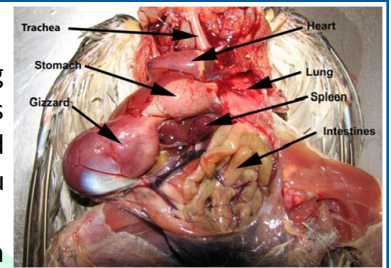
To get the most accurate results from a post mortem it is actually best for us to start with a sick bird that we kill ourselves, rather than already dead bird. The reason is that in a dead bird all sorts of bugs grow really quickly after death and it makes it harder for us to identify hexamita and cocci bugs from the rest. In addition, more birds (2+) make a diagnosis more accurate.

Most of you have had birds a few weeks now and the initial starve outs have past and the birds will be gaining weight quickly. Most of the gut problems we see (Hexamita, coccidiosis and rotavirus) all have very similar signs of sickness and it is vital to get a post mortem done to correctly identify the bug and give the correct treatment. Signs start as vague as lowered feed intakes, reduced weight gain, coloured dung and develop on to hunched birds hanging away from the mob and obviously sick birds and finally deaths.

Most of the diseases are easily treated so **seek our advice early on** so as to minimise losses from weight loss/poor weight gain and deaths.

Helpful Tip

– **ELECTROLYTES and MULTIVITS.** Add an electrolyte solution (+/- multivits) to the water for 7 days before and 7 days after any planned "change" in the birds life. Examples of "changes" would be changing feed (crumb to pellet etc) or when mixing of groups of birds as well as for new arrivals, day olds or 6-8 week old poults. Electrolytes will help the transition and minimise mortality. Electrolytes will help keep birds hydrated and reduce losses/stress from birds who are struggling with the new environment or feed. We stock the liquid electrolyte concentrate called "Solulyte" as well as liquid "Multivits" on the shelf so ask the dispensary if you are interested.



SHEPHERD OF THE FUTURE

We would like to congratulate Philip Derryman of Mount Pleasant and Peterhayes Farm, Yarcombe who won the Shepherd of the future competition at Sheep South West in Paignton. Philip honed his skills as a shepherd on the family pedigree flock of Hampshire Downs, Suffolks and Romneys.

Philip who is 23 years old will go on to compete in the international finals in New Zealand later this year, we wish Philip all the best and please remember to come back!

SHEEP DOG TRIALS

Tom and Di Besent of Manor Farm, Cheselbourne hosted another successful sheep dog trials at the end of July with all proceeds (£800!) going to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. This is a very relaxed Open Event and will be happening again next year no doubt so if you have a good dog and fancy some competition why not give it a go?



YARCOMBE YOUNG FARMERS

Congratulations to Yarcombe Young Farmers for organising a race night with a difference on Saturday 30th July at Timber Top Farm by kind permission of the Manning Family. Six races were held where a toy ride on tractor was 'wound in' by the contestant. Well done to Richard Brain for coming second in the Animal Health race. The final race was contested by six Synergy staff, with Stuart Perry representing Caroline – after a closely fought contest Stuart was the winner. Monies were being raised for Help the Heroes and Bibic charities.