

News from our Rounds

Central

Josie Burrige



September is here, with some lockdown measures still in place. I find that one day just seems to blur into the next and August disappeared just like that. I certainly won't be sad to see the back of what felt like an inferno in mid-August; not waterproof weather that's for sure!

We have had a busy month, and have seen a fair few cases of calf scour with many showing signs of coccidiosis. This disease is caused by a protozoan parasite called Eimeria, of which there are a variety of species. It commonly causes scour containing mucus and fresh blood ± straining. The good news is that it is easily treated after laboratory diagnosis, so if you are worried about cocci in your youngstock then we can perform a cocci count in our own laboratory on a faecal sample, and advise accordingly. Please don't hesitate to give us a call, as untreated coccidiosis can cause long lasting gut damage and poor growth rates.

#synergytweets!

Follow us on Social Media:

@SynergyFarmVets @SynergyFarmHealth



After much discussion, we have made the difficult decision to **not** have our main indoor stand at the **SW Dairy Show** this October. In light of the current COVID-19 situation we felt it unsafe to put our staff at risk. However we are planning to have an outdoor stand with our Hospitality Unit (Hu) on Avenue B opposite the Wessex Pavillion. *We hope to see you there!*

East

Louise Silk



Over in our Salisbury area, the combines have been working flat out. The wet weather earlier in the year has had some negative effect on yields but I hear quality, on the whole, is reasonable. The exceptionally hot weather in August brought challenges for farmers and vets alike. Remember to check water availability for all stock, especially those that rely on natural water sources, which may be low or drying up. We should be mindful that the risk of Bluetongue virus is higher at this time of year so keep alert for clinical signs. In sheep typical signs include ulcers in the mouth, drooling and swelling of the head and neck, and the coronary band area. In cattle, signs can be more subtle with redness around the eyes, nose, mouth and coronary band; milk drop; high temperature and crusting and discharge around the nose. For more information see www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue.

Over the last 6 months it has been fantastic re-connecting with clients I used to work with, as well as getting to know some new faces. Having spent some time out of practice, it is fascinating to see what has and hasn't changed. I have to say it came as quite a shock to find the milk price considerably lower now than it was over 7 years ago! I am heartened however by news that, over lockdown, more people than ever are supporting their local producers. Let us hope this continues as life starts to return to some kind of normal.



0-6 Youngstock Virtual Meeting Round Up

Cow SIGNALS®



Our 0-6 Youngstock Service virtual workshop at the end of August, **applying Cowsignals to calf behaviour**, was a great success! We had over 30 people attend with some great discussion, thanks to all who joined us! The event was run by our two new vets and Youngstock enthusiasts Charlotte Debbaut and Martijn 't Hoen, who are trained in Cow Signals. They discussed applying the principles of Cow Signals to calf behaviour and what calves are telling you about their environment. We hope that the next 0-6 event will be in person, but if this isn't possible then we will be running another online workshop later in the autumn. We hope you will join us! **If you would like to discuss calf health and performance on your farm then please give us a call and ask to speak to one of our 0-6 youngstock team.**



Synergy Business Update

As you may have heard in the farming press there has been an ongoing move for veterinary practices to be sold and bought up by corporate venture capitalist companies.

Synergy Farm Health is very proud to steadfastly remain as one of the very few remaining independently owned farm animal practices in the South West and it is absolutely our intention to remain that way.

Synergy is wholly owned and led by its employees; the vets, vet techs, managers, and support staff that you see and work with daily. This is tremendously important to us and influences Synergy's culture, ambition and therefore our strategy and position within the veterinary marketplace.

It is this ethos that allows us to recruit, develop and retain the quality of staff that make this business successful and able to deliver high standards of farm animal veterinary service to you, our loyal clients. Part of our ability to stay independent has

come from our membership of the XLVets network. This is not a corporate body but a membership organisation with similarly minded independent vets across the country working together. Through our membership we are able to negotiate better deals with our suppliers as well as sharing best practice, skills and training.

As a result of this collaboration we are very pleased to be able to announce that in some of the major medicine areas we have been able to **reduce prices**. In terms of preventative health products such as vaccinations, the prices for IBR, Lepto and also BVD vaccines have all been reduced over the last 6 to 12 months, and in all cases these savings have been passed directly onto our clients. We aim to ensure that we maintain these competitive prices going forward.

We have also managed to negotiate improved prices on some other important medicines. These include the teat sealant, Orbeseal, as well as the main fertility hormone Prelim (still known to many as Estrumate!).

For those of you affected by some of these changes you will shortly be receiving a letter with further details as to how these changes will affect you specifically. Visit www.synergyfarmhealth.com for more information. Charges will not be affected.



Some of the Synergy Team at the 2019 Farmers' Weekly Awards

Synergy Training Courses return

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we had to make the difficult decision a few months ago to cancel our training courses. In the meantime we have run a number of virtual meetings which have been a great success.

We're now pleased to say that we are in the position to **start our training courses again**. Please be assured that safety of both our clients and staff are paramount, therefore our courses are either running online or face to face as socially distanced, COVID-19 safe courses.

If you are interested in any of these please give us a call on 01935 83682. We will give you details on how to join us online. We look forward to welcoming you back!



September 2020

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- Summer health issues return...
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- Regional News
- Synergy Tweets

During the current COVID-19 pandemic we have seen lots of examples of how our normal daily processes have been changing. One of these has centred around online transactions. We have an increasing number of clients settling invoices using our Direct Debit option. **To reward them and also to encourage others to take up the service we will be offering a 1% credit from your monthly bill if paid by Direct Debit within our normal 30 day terms.**

We hope that during this period of uncertainty we can continue to work closely together. We will continue to try our absolute hardest to get the best possible value for our clients for our services and products. However please do not hesitate to pick up the phone if you would like to discuss this further with any of the directors.

Andrew Davies - Managing Director
Jon Reader - Business Director

Milksure Course Part 1 - Online
14th September 10am-12pm

Sheep Faecal Worm Egg Count - Running over two afternoons:
21st September 2pm-4pm **Online**
22nd September 2pm- 4pm **at Lower Coombe**

Safe Use of Veterinary Medicine (General) - Online
28th September 10am-1pm

DIY AI 2 Day Course:
5th October 9am-4pm **at Lower Coombe**
6th October 9am- 4pm **on Farm**

Safe Use of Veterinary Medicine (Sheep) - Online
6th October 10am-1pm

ROMS Accredited Mobility Scoring Course - Online
20th October 9am - 3pm

Summer health issues return...

As is usual at this time of year, problems caused by **New Forest eye** (Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis) have returned with a vengeance. This painful and highly unpleasant eye condition is caused by a bacteria called *Moraxella bovis*. The bacteria can be spread by flies (on their feet), which can then result in outbreaks in groups of cattle at grass. More severe disease tends to present in younger animals, however animals of any age are susceptible.

The most obvious sign of the disease is the classical **central white lesion** on the eye surface. This can then lead onto ulceration of the eye and in serious cases complete rupture of the eyeball itself can occur. Other signs to look out for are:

- ◆ Avoidance of light
- ◆ Increased blinking/eyelids shut

◆ Tear staining and matting of the eyelashes

◆ Loss of vision

◆ Reduced appetite and/or production

Mild cases can be very easily treated with topical antibiotic cream (**Opticlox eye ointment**) whilst more severe cases will require either intramuscular antibiotic (**Alamycin LA**) or a sub-conjunctival (under the eyelid) injection of antibiotic to kill the causative bacteria combined with an anti-inflammatory.



Synergy backs British Farming in #farm24 campaign

On the 6th August Synergy Farm Health took part in #farm24 – 24 Hours In Farming, a social media campaign to support and celebrate British farming. Led by Farmers Guardian and Morrisons, the campaign was the UK's biggest online agricultural event, seeing farmers, educators, and those in the supply chain come together to pledge their support for British Farming.



CHANGES TO ALAMYCIN LA

There is a formulation change and a new withdrawal period for Alamycin LA. Please note that this change does not apply to any current Alamycin LA you may have on farm, this applies to the new formula only. Please follow the withdrawal period as detailed on the bottle of Alamycin LA that is used at the time of treatment.



OLD WITHDRAWAL PERIOD		NEW WITHDRAWAL PERIOD	
Meat & offal:	Milk:	Meat & offal:	Milk:
Cattle - 31 days	Cattle - 10 days	Cattle - 41 days	Cattle - 8 days
Sheep - 9 days	Sheep - 7 days	Sheep - 24 days	Sheep - 7 days
Pigs - 18 days		Pigs - 20 days	

Sheep Seasonal Promotions

ECTOFLY	FOOTVAX	SPOTINOR
2.5L £33.70	20 doses £28.50	2.5L £110
5L £58.90	50 doses £59	1L £60
	250 doses £230	

All prices EX VAT. For a full list of promotional items please contact Synergy Dispensary on 01935 83682.

DID YOU KNOW?

Vets Emily Gascoigne, Charlotte Debbaut and SQP Mikey Yard are now **Sheep Lameness Reduction Advisors**, certified by MSD Animal Health. Get in touch today to see how they can advise on a plan for your flock.



Ed Powell-Jackson
Veterinary Surgeon

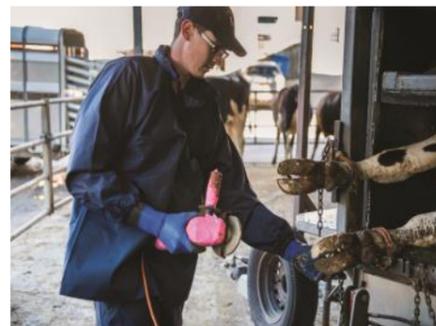


Please remember if you are having problems with sore eyes, or other fly related issues such as summer mastitis, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Foot Trimming Service

Here at Synergy we run a team of **12 fully trained and professional foot trimmers** with many years of experience between us.

We use a variety of modern hydraulic hoof trimming crushes which suit a variety of cattle. We can accommodate anything from the largest bull to the smallest Dexter, with our tip-over crush usually providing the greatest flexibility for the larger or smaller extremes of cow sizes.



We attend to many different scenarios, from a single lame animal to a whole herd trim, and everything in between.

The majority of our visits are pre-planned routines, with many clients on weekly,

fortnightly or monthly plans, booked in advance. We can often slot in other small visits or 'lame cow service' visits in between or later in the day. Occasionally we



send two trimmers out together to complete a higher number of cows in one day. For those interested in whole herd trims with several trimmers or crushes in attendance, we obviously need a bit more notice to organise this! We feel very strongly that quality, not quantity, is best for our cows, which is why we do not just expect one trimmer to trim excessive numbers single-handedly.

We record all trimming visits on our computerised system. This data can be used by farmers and/or their routine vets to analyse any lameness issues and identify

causal factors. This data is analysed quarterly and annually and can also be used to benchmark farms. It is a vital link between vets, trimmers and the farmer. The system will also flag up cows that have become chronic or problem cows and highlight the need for further action or possibly the need to 'refer to vet'.



If you think you may be interested in any of our services, please do get in touch for a chat – it's always useful to discuss your needs and facilities prior to our first visit.

Dave Frecknall
Vet Tech Manager



Synergy welcomes new Vet Interns Ellen Taylor and Tom Woolcott

In July, we welcomed our two new Vet Interns to the Synergy Team. **Tom** is from Glastonbury and **Ellen** from Wimborne, so both on our home turf. Both Ellen and Tom have been on EMS at the practice recently, so some of you will have met them already. They are looking forward to getting lots of on-farm experience and have already got stuck in!



News from our Rounds

North
Alastair Hayton

I cannot believe we are into September and thoughts are already turning to the autumn and housing period. Mind you, if there was ever a year to get through quickly, this might be the one!

Our new North Team member Tom Angel recently performed a very dramatic piece of surgery on a cow with an complete intestinal blockage caused by a lump of undigested feed, technically termed (I am reliably informed) a "phytobezoar". A really unusual diagnosis and certainly not anything I have encountered in my time vetting.

Our colleagues Graeme McPherson and Esme Moffett will shortly be taking their final exams at Liverpool University for the Diploma in Bovine Reproduction, a very esteemed post graduate qualification. For the last two years they have been combining their practice work with producing dissertations, writing reports and now swotting for the final exams. We wish them both the best of luck and very much hope we can report success at the next newsletter – I am sure we will.

West
Gareth Foden

These have been strange times and we have greatly missed the ability to get involved with the community socially as we once did before COVID-19 restrictions. Things that have been sorely missed include the annual Ham Hill discussion group farm walk, being able to chew the fat at the Axminster branch and those tea/coffee breaks on farm. I am pleased that we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel and as such training courses are going to resume as of this month and hopefully some discussion groups/meetings will follow shortly.

So, what is on my mind this September? Have we got a healthy, parasite free, fully vaccinated herd that we can feed a good quality ration to throughout the winter? Careful preparation will pay dividends. It's amazing how often lower stocking densities improve overall performance due to reduced disease and better feed utilisation. Food for thought.

CONTINUED MILKING COW ANTIBIOTIC TUBE SHORTAGE

The nationwide shortage of lactating cow tubes continues due to a manufacturing problem with a number of leading products (Tetra Delta, Combiclav LC) and the discontinuation of Ubro Yellow. This has had a knock on effect to other lactating cow tubes on the market leading to inconsistencies of stock supply. It is hoped that Mastiplan should return by the end of September and Combiclav LC by the end of November.

If you have any questions regarding this please speak to your Vet.

We are currently able to source:
Ubrolexin, Ubropen
and
Orbenin LA.