



### Lockdown no.3!

Following on from the previous two lockdowns we have put many protocols in place which can continue under the latest lockdown arrangements. However, as you will all be aware COVID prevalence is much higher in our regions now, and we will occasionally need to make personnel or timing changes to ensure everyone is protected where possible. Our priority will always remain to look after the health and welfare of our staff, clients and animals under our care. We will still be providing a delivery service for your medicines and any veterinary treatment that can be carried out safely under COVID guidelines.

Our reception staff will continue to contact you prior to attendance on farm to ensure Stay safe everyone!

**Jo Masters**  
Operations Director



### January 2021

- Lockdown no.3!
- Feeding calves after weaning - what are your aims?
- Choosing the right Calf Milk Replacement
- Medicines Update
- Keeping Feet Clean!
- Regional News
- Dispensary Promotions

may be costing you in reduced growth rates. Coccidiostats are one of many tools in our armoury to reduce the impact of coccidiosis.

### Feeding calves after weaning - what are your aims?

Nutrition of growing cattle is often dwelt on less than adult cows for the simple reason that it is a lot less complicated. Often youngstock will perform very well with a "guestimated" ration that is altered according to how the animals respond to it. However there are some significant benefits to being a bit more precise with youngstock feeding- notably not wasting money on oversupply of energy or protein, and making sure that cattle hit the growth rate targets that you are aiming for.



Weighing calves a few times at 3 week intervals gives a good idea of daily liveweight gain.

We are often asked the question "how much cake should I be feeding my growing heifers or beef cattle?" and "Can I

feed TMR to calves?". The answer to these questions obviously varies from farm to farm but we can help you to formulate a ration for your youngstock that takes into account the following factors:-

- ◆ What growth rates do you need to achieve to hit your targets for weight at calving or finishing in a timely manner?
- ◆ Have you been achieving these growth rates?
- ◆ What forages do you have available and what are their protein and ME levels?
- ◆ What are your concentrate choices? Not all rearer concentrates are the same- to really get an idea of how cattle will perform we need to not only know the headline crude protein % but also the ME and ingredients lists. Often cheaper feeds are less digestible despite having a high protein level and performance may not be what you expect.
- ◆ What are the mineral levels in the forage? This varies significantly from farm to farm and depends on soil mineral concentrations.
- ◆ Do I need to include a coccidiostat in the feed? This can help reduce the likelihood of cocci infections that may or may not be obvious. We can look at cocci egg counts in faecal samples (and check whether they are pathogenic species or not) to determine whether cocci

We can help you answer all of these questions to enable you to make informed decisions about growing cattle nutrition. A good plan of attack would be to work out target growth rates, do some weighing to see if you are achieving them, get your forage analysed and then look at concentrate options. Some good ongoing monitoring tools when feeding the ration are to keep an eye on growth rates, check faecal samples for cocci eggs and do some blood testing to look at mineral levels.



Bloods to look at mineral levels are particularly useful on systems that rely heavily on forage.

Our team of vets and vet techs are well suited to help you with all of these tasks. Next time you have a vet on farm please ask us about youngstock nutrition, or give us a call.

**Tom Shardlow**  
Veterinary Surgeon

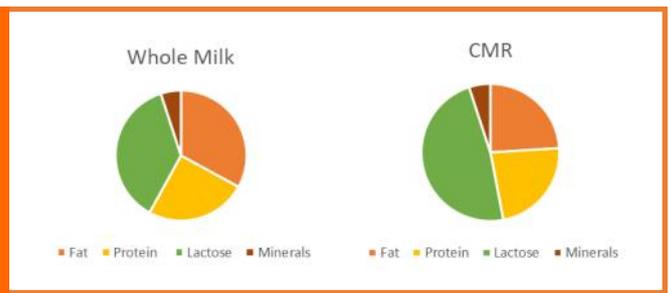


# Choosing the right Calf Milk Replacer

Calf nutrition is an area of your business that you need to get right from the off; what we feed our calves at this early stage will impact on their future health and profitability. Here I focus on the pre-ruminant phase where the calf fulfils its nutritional needs from liquid feeding i.e. whole milk/Calf Milk Replacer (CMR) supplying energy through fat and carbohydrates, then protein for growth. The main feature of this phase is intestinal digestion of the liquid feed. There is efficient digestion of milk protein and lactose (sugar) but limited digestion of starch, plant proteins and non-lactose sugars. This will be a very important aspect when considering the choice of CMR.

Choosing between whole milk and CMR will depend on your own farm and set up but both systems can work. However, the choice of **WHICH** CMR is crucial to determining the daily live weight gain (DLWG) and health of your calves. There are often long lists of ingredients on CMR labels, so we are going to try and simplify it down to

Both CMR and whole milk can provide the calf with the correct nutrition, but the energy tends to come from different sources as demonstrated in the pie charts on the right.



what protein source the CMR is providing and how accessible it is to the calf.

There are 2 types of protein sources used in CMR, milk proteins and non-milk proteins (often plant). Milk proteins can be supplied in 5 forms: Dried skim milk, Whey protein concentrate, Whey powder, Acid Whey and Delactosed Whey. They will vary in protein and lactose content.

However, milk proteins are expensive so plant protein can represent a cost saving but these proteins have a reduced digestibility compared to milk proteins which can lead to an increased risk of nutritional scour. The non-milk proteins most seen in CMRs (in descending digestibility order)

are wheat gluten, pea and egg protein and soy protein. **When choosing your CMR you ideally want a milk protein as the main protein source with plant proteins further down the list.**

The choice of milk powder can become confusing, so when choosing how you are going to feed your calves please do not hesitate to ask your vet for their advice, especially our dedicated youngstock team who have a wealth of experience in this area.



**Josie Burridge**  
Veterinary Surgeon

## Export Certification

You will all have been bombarded by the news leading up to Christmas about the Brexit trade deal and the ramifications for the UK Agricultural Industry. There may be some of you that have previously exported various products of animal origin to Europe as part of your business and these generally may not have required specific certification. However this will have changed from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

We are here to help you through the potential minefield that this brings especially if you only need to do this occasionally. Synergy has a whole team of

vets that are authorised to inspect products and sign this certification. There is a whole new layer of jargon to sort through to sort your EHC from your GEFs and your SAs!!

Traditionally this work was only able to be carried out by an OV (Official Veterinarian) but the rules have now changed to allow a CSO (Certificate Support Officer) to carry out most of the background work and checks to minimise the vet input (and reduce the cost!).

Synergy have a trained CSO to help facilitate any export certification so

please do not hesitate to contact us even if you are only considering the need for export certification and we will help guide you through the process. Synergy is fully signed up to the EHC (Export Health Certificate) Online portal so we are all ready to help you. However, our advice with any export is to start the process as soon as possible to avoid last minute stress on the day of proposed export.



**Jon Reader**  
Business Director

## Medicines Update

Once again we thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the number of national medicine supply issues that have occurred recently.

Current updates are as follows:

- **Betamox LA:** we will be supplying **TRYMOX LA** as an alternative, this has the same dose rate and withhold periods.



- **Betamox Injection:** we will be supplying **CLAMOXYL** as an alternative. Please note Clamoxyl withdrawal periods:  
**Cattle Milk- 60 Hours, Meat- 54 Days**  
**Sheep Meat- 47 Days**
- **Footvax:** there are limited supplies available. Please speak to our Dispensary Team for further details.

Please consult your Vet to discuss any specific queries. For further information please call our Dispensary Team on 01935 83682.

# Keeping Feet Clean!

Stinky feet are not desirable as my wife often reminds me!! Keeping the feet of your livestock clean at this time of year can be a real challenge.

Footbathing is important all year round but now more than ever. Here are a few pointers to keep your animals feet healthy:



Not your typical footbath!

Rinsing feet in the parlour or pre-bathing will greatly increase the effectiveness of the treatment footbath.

Formalin (4% concentration) and Copper Sulphate (5% concentration) are most popular and effective choices to put in a footbath.

Keep areas before and after footbath clean.

One cow per one litre of footbath is recommended by AHDB. 200 litre footbath should be changed after 200 cow passes.

Depth of 12cm to cover the whole hoof. Length of 3m is ideal to allow two steps of each foot. Width of two cows to improve cow flow is preferred.

Copper Sulphate mixes better if added after mixing in a bucket of warm water. All treatments are more effective in warmer water.

Make the task of refilling the footbath an easy routine job so that it gets done more regularly.



Some of these pointers might not always be practical but effective footbathing in my opinion can have the biggest impact on reducing lameness in your animals. Get your footbath out then get your foot trimmer out!

James Perrett  
Vet Tech



## Meet the Team

### Sam Edworthy

Sam joined the reception team back in the Summer and hit the ground running with all the pandemic controls that were in place! Sam moved from Devon to Dorset to live on the dairy farm where her partner works and is loving the Dorset countryside. Sam comes from an agricultural background and in her spare time she enjoys Country sports, exploring the world, riding horses, and is still involved in Devon YFC.



## Vet Tech Fees

Back in April 2020 we were due to make some small adjustments to the Vet Tech fees for foot trimming etc. This was delayed due to the Covid situation. However, there will now be a small inflationary price rise for some of our Vet Tech charges from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

## News from our Rounds

### North

#### Charlotte Moulard

As I am writing this, I am in the process of completing my Official Veterinarian (OV) Export training, which gives me the qualification to be able to certify the export of live animals and animal products. It is expected that there will be an increased workload certifying products for export to the EU to keep the food industry ticking along. There are a few Synergy vets going through the training to meet this increased demand. The whole process is complex and the content certainly isn't the most exciting thing I've ever had to learn but it is vitally important to get the job done absolutely right! Watch this space.



For those clients who perhaps I haven't seen recently, you may not know that I am off on maternity leave in January. Many clients, colleagues and even my midwife have reassured me that looking after a baby is really not that dissimilar to caring for a neonatal lamb; I just hope I am not expected to "lamb" outdoors in February! I look forward to seeing you all again on my return.

### West

#### Ben Barber

A New Year a new beginning! Already I have had several sit-down talks with farm management teams to discuss a plan for the start of this year. Providing an opportunity for everyone to voice their thoughts is important; it gives us a focus and in reality assigns vet and farmer time to where it is needed. It can often mean the difference between ideas being had and eventually actioned. For one suckler herd this has meant having two 6-monthly visits already booked in (the hope being these are the only times a vet sets foot on farm!) and for one dairy herd the addition of a quarterly visit purely based around youngstock.



On a lighter note, my mid-life crisis is almost complete having booked in the practical test which will give me the ability to ride a motorbike of any power! Good-bye little 125cc, hello to an increase on life insurance payments. . .

# News from our Rounds

## Central Bella Lewis

This winter we have diagnosed several cases of sheep scab, caused by the *Psoroptes ovis* mite.



Taking deep skin scrapes of itchy sheep allows us to identify the culprits under the microscope – it is important not to confuse scab with other potential causes of itchy sheep, such as lice or bacterial infections, which would require different treatments.

Sheep scab can be treated by injections available from our dispensary. Multiple injections may be required at specific time intervals so please ask for advice on what product and protocol to use. Plunge dipping is also very effective. After treating the flock, it is crucial to take measures to avoid re-infection from the environment.



Keep scab out! Most new outbreaks of sheep scab come from purchasing new stock, contact with another flock or sharing equipment. Always quarantine newly purchased sheep and use blood tests and scab treatments where necessary; and maintain secure farm boundaries. Remember that mites can survive for 17 days in the environment such as on fences, livestock vehicles, clothing and equipment. Please speak to any of Team Sheep if you have any concerns about sheep scab – we are always happy to help you.

## East Mike Kerby



“Time flies when one is enjoying oneself – a veritably apt saying as my first 6 months at Synergy have whizzed by despite the C-19 alterations to practice life.

Although geographically I haven't really moved far at all and many conditions of cattle are similar in incidence, I have been surprised about two conditions' occurrence, namely Acorn poisoning and Redwater. Acorns seemed to be in abundance on the ground much later this Autumn than most years, perhaps leading to increased risk of ingestion by some grazing cattle, whilst infected ticks, carrying the red blood cell destroying parasite *Babesia*, appear to be spreading further North into the grazing areas of North Dorset and South Somerset.

No doubt the seasonal increase in calf scours and pneumonia will trouble us in the first 3 months of the New Year, along with the increased risk of LDAs as the high starch levels in 2020 Maize silage mature to higher digestibility forms but what will surprise me clinically in the first quarter of 2021 I wonder?

*Wishing you all a healthy, successful and ultimately normal 2021!*

## Synergy Training Courses

**DUE TO CURRENT COVID-19 MEASURES OUR FACE TO FACE COURSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED, HOWEVER WE ARE NOW RUNNING MANY OF OUR COURSES ONLINE.**

If you are interested in joining our online courses or would like to know more, please get in touch: 01935 83682 / [courses@synergyfarmhealth.com](mailto:courses@synergyfarmhealth.com)

We will give you details on how to join us. For those who require staff training or do not want to join us online, we are happy to offer bespoke training on farm. Please get in touch for further details.

**Milksure Course Part 1**  
25<sup>th</sup> January 10am– 12pm

**DIY AI Theory Only**  
25<sup>th</sup> January 9am– 4pm

**Safe Use of Veterinary Medicine - General**  
27<sup>th</sup> January 10am– 1pm

**Introduction to Lambing**  
11<sup>th</sup> February 1pm– 4pm

**Safe Use of Veterinary Medicine - Sheep**  
18<sup>th</sup> February 10am– 1pm

## Seasonal Dispensary Offers

All prices EX VAT. For a full list of promotions please call Dispensary on 01935 83682



**HEPTAVAC P PLUS**  
25 doses £22.00  
50 doses £41.00  
125 doses £93.00  
250 doses £169.50

## #synergytweets!

Follow us on Social Media:

[@SynergyFarmVets](https://twitter.com/SynergyFarmVets) [@SynergyFarmHealth](https://www.facebook.com/SynergyFarmHealth)

#goodbye2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR 🎉 support and business in what's unprecedented 2020. We wish you a prosperous, happy, bright future! #happynewyear2021 #goodbye2020 #backbritishfarming



#backbritishfarming