



How can we prevent Mastitis?

Mastitis is seen on every herd we attend and is of considerable financial and welfare cost to both the farmer and the wider industry. We may not be able to eradicate Mastitis in your herd but we can proactively manage the issues in order to reduce the impact. Are you struggling to control the bulk SCC or is your clinical case rate too high? Do you have to cull too many cows due to chronic infection? Usually the bigger the problem the more short term easy wins there are to be had.



Often the discussion is initiated around advice on treating cows, usually those which have failed to respond to first (or second or third) line treatments, there is a limit to what we can achieve with these cows with a good first case cure rate often being only just over 50%. Where we can make a big impact is on reducing infections happening in the first place and we need to use the data from your farm to find where those infections originating from.

We have recently had two further staff members trained in delivery of the AHDB Mastitis Control Plan, Claire Rudd in the Central area and Tom Cook in the West joining Rachel Hayton and Tom Clarke. All of our vets have an understanding of mastitis control and prevention and deal with issues daily. However we are further developing a team with a special interest in this area of disease on farm.

The mastitis control plan uses up to date research and looks at the farm mastitis data regarding SCC and clinical cases to find out when cows become infected. A diagnosis or herd pattern can be found as to whether infection originates in the dry period or lactation and whether it shows a contagious or environmental pattern.

AHDB Mastitis Control Plan

When we find the pattern and discuss with the farm team we can agree targeted measures to reduce the new infection rates on the farm.

Such an approach will give you peace of mind that actions are targeted in the right areas, and time and money is well spent, using data from your herd. Investment in improving dry cow management will not

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make an impact if infections predominantly originate during lactation and vice versa.

Talk to your regular vet in the first instance and we can formulate a plan to tackle this disease. It may involve some data analysis and discussion or a more in-depth approach. An internal referral to one of the mastitis team can offer a fresh pair of eyes on the situation or a different idea.

Tom Cook
Veterinary Surgeon



Medicines Update:

Adrenacaine 100ml

Due to a nationwide manufacturing problem with **Adrenacaine**, we will now be supplying **Pronestestic** as an alternative local anaesthetic. This previously needed to be stored in the fridge but re-licensing has meant that it can now be stored at an ambient temperature.

Betamox 100ml

Following previous supply problems, we are pleased to inform you that **Betamox RTU** is now available to order. Please note supplies may be slightly sporadic while the Drug company gets production back up to 100% - Please bear with us.



Spirovac - 5 Dose

Following a long supply problem, we are pleased to inform you that **Spirovac 5 Dose** is now available to order.

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

Ectoparasites, more than just itchy

Despite a cold and initially dry spring we are now truly back on track for summer. Although many



of our clients are busy with silaging, fencing and other summer-related jobs, it is easy to forget about stock out on pasture, especially animals that are grazed extensively, away from the main holding. Ectoparasites such as flies and ticks can be a real nuisance to animals and, if left unchecked, will explode in numbers under favourable circumstances. Apart from annoying animals and humans they can also cause significant disease.

In milk samples submitted to our lab in recent months, we have seen an increase in *T. pyogenes* cases. These bacteria are commonly associated with summer mastitis and can be spread by flies feeding on any secretions on the teats. This results in blind quarters in freshly calved heifers or the "classical" dry cow summer mastitis.



Ticks are becoming more widespread throughout the UK and we are now seeing problems in areas

previously unaffected. 'Red Water' is spread by ticks and can be an issue on some farms. Outbreaks of New Forest Eye

can also be frustrating to deal with in any stock that are out grazing and will readily be spread by flies from animal to animal.

In sheep the all too familiar blowfly strike, estimated to affect 80% of flocks every year, is a cause for continuous vigilance and necessitates various preventative measures such as pour on treatments. But other diseases such as tick pyaemia in lambs or louping ill can be spread by other ectoparasites such as ticks.

In buildings and parlours there can be a variety of deterrents or reduction options such as fans, sticky traps, UV lights and many others. Therefore, a suitable preventative plan is very beneficial in preventing or reducing problems. The use of parasitic wasps is a novel and environmentally friendly method of fly control that we have used on several dairy farms with great success. The wasps feed on the developing fly larvae (which live in dung heaps and slurry stores), thereby reducing the fly population substantially. Our dispensary team source the wasps for you and our vet techs release them – please contact Dispensary for more information.

At Synergy we currently stock a multitude of products in different volumes such as **Clik Extra, Ectofly and Spotinor**, -



please see the back cover for our dispensary offers. Our experienced vet and SQP team can advise you on the best products to use depending on the parasites you wish to target, your stock type, time of year and personal needs. They can also extend advice on how to administer the various products for maximum effect: safe storage, effective and accurate dosing, correct application technique and many other factors such as weather, coat coverage etc. can affect treatment success.

Since many of these compounds can be toxic to animals, humans and in the wider environment please ensure you follow PPE instructions and dispose of any leftovers in a suitable fashion. Our dispensary team will be more than happy to advise you on all of these topics!

Martijn 't Hoen
Veterinary Surgeon



Synergy Training Courses

If you are interested in joining our courses or would like to know more, please get in touch:
01935 83682

Safe Use of Veterinary Medicine - General

Online 14th June 10am – 1pm

Milksure Course Part 1

Online 15th June 10am – 12pm

Safe Use of Veterinary Medicine - Sheep

Online 29th June 10am – 1pm

DIY AI 3 Day Course

Online and On Farm 19th - 21st July 9am – 4pm

Practical Calving Workshop

Evershot 29th July 10am – 2pm

Faecal Worm Egg Counting Course

Evershot 10th August 10am – 3pm

The Medicine Hub is here - have you registered your holding?

In response to a pressing need for the UK to have robust antibiotic use data for its dairy, beef and lamb industries, AHDB created the Medicine Hub. This allows us to compare our use with other countries, as well as from year to year. We are rightly proud of the high levels of health and welfare achieved in the UK with low antibiotic use, BUT unbelievably we had no way of demonstrating this at a national level!

Synergy has been analysing antibiotic use on behalf of our clients for many years. If you wish to register on the Medicine Hub, we can upload antibiotic sales data on your behalf. All you have to do is click on the 3rd party permissions button and enter Synergy Farm Health details.

This is designed for all keepers of cattle and sheep, large and small. Even if you have used no antibiotic at all this year we can enter that for you and add to the database.

Further details on the Medicine Hub will follow in future newsletters; in particular other ways of entering data or even using it as an electronic medicine book. If you would like us to add your medicine use to the national hub, go to MedicineHub@ahdb.org.uk and register your holding.



On Track?

Isn't it lovely to see cows out to pasture, but have you looked at your tracks recently? Effective cow tracks can lengthen the grazing season, whilst reducing damage to the field and gateways. A well designed and positioned track will also improve cow flow, allowing cows to walk freely and comfortably.



Cows are herd animals and prefer to move in groups, often walking in single file. When on uneven terrain cows will lower their heads to inspect the surface they are

about to walk on. Cows need to move freely to allow them safe foot placement. Cows that are pushed hard to walk quicker will raise their heads which means they are more likely to get a stone injury as well as causing excessive wear on their claws.

What we want to do is to allow them to walk at their own speed. Cows that fall behind will become increasingly stressed as they are not keeping up with the rest of the group. Ideally cows should not be forced with a dog, tractor or quad bike. Walking up behind cows coming into the field gives you a great opportunity to kick away any stones that might have ended up on the track.

There are a number of different materials you can use on the tracks. Astro turf has all weather qualities and provides soft

cushioning. Crushed limestone absorbs rainfall and replenishes groundwater.

Woodchip is great for cows feet but when using this on top of soil you need to have a thick layer or it doesn't last long and may become expensive.

Remember, cows walking a long way on new concrete risk getting thin soles which leads to discomfort.



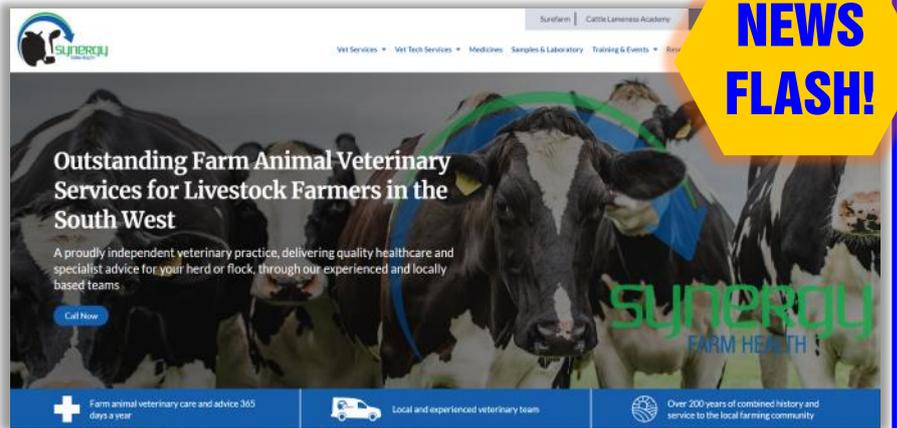
Natalie Harrow
Vet Tech



Synergy proud to launch redesigned website!

We are very pleased with the easy-to-navigate design, and are excited to be able share more information with you online.

To take a look please visit:
www.synergyfarmhealth.com



News from our Rounds

North Pete O'Malley

I really enjoy seeing new and innovative ideas on our farms, especially when it has a positive impact on animal health, profitability, or sustainability. One of our North farms has achieved all three by investing in a reusable udder cloth system. Washable udder cloths now form part of their routine teat preparation in the parlour. A specialised industrial washing machine with integrated dual chemical cleaning allows for hygienic recycling of the cloths. After only a few months the farm has already seen a reduction in cell counts which is fantastic.

Like with many things however, the system is only as good as the operator! The success of this new approach isn't just down to the washing machine alone, but the continued attention to detail by the parlour team in terms of hygiene, pre-dipping, and cluster management.



West Esme Moffett

I'm really sorry to mention the weather....again!! But it's hard not to when it's been so utterly atrocious. I hope as you're reading this that the ground has started to dry up and you're able to cut some grass and turn some animals out. We're all riding this storm together, so please let us know if we can help with grass or grazing advice.

At least you could shelter from the rain inside the pub, at last! And give your friends and family a much overdue hug. Definitely good to have things like that to cheer us up on these dreary days, especially as May featured Mental Health Awareness Week. The focus this year was on nature and the benefits it has on our mental wellbeing. As rural people we are lucky enough to be surrounded by nature every day, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't occasionally stop for a moment of calm to appreciate our surroundings.



News from our Rounds

Central Andre Northey



The fluctuation in temperatures and heavy rainfall after a prolonged dry period has presented challenges particularly for youngstock. A noticeable increase in respiratory diseases of viral and bacterial origin in calves was one of them.

Early detection of signs of illness, and timely treatment are crucial for a good recovery, both at an individual and herd level. Where on-farm first line treatments don't work satisfactorily, we can assist with environmental assessments and diagnostic tests to identify the specific causes of the disease outbreak. This might involve blood tests to screen for exposure to pneumonia pathogens. We can then recommend appropriate preventative measures, which might include vaccination, before the next high risk period.

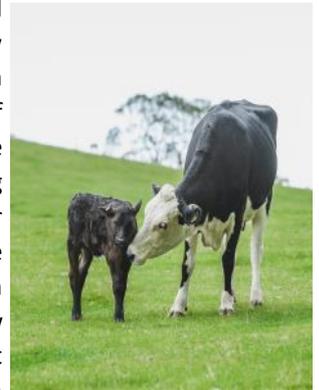
So please don't hesitate to ask for advice to get on top of any calf respiratory problems. The long-term effects of compromised lung function can be damaging to the animals' future development.

East Louise Silk



Grass shortage has been an issue across the whole of the east region and has been equally problematic for beef and sheep, as well as dairy enterprises. As the mating season approaches it is more important than ever to ensure cows are receiving the best possible nutrition and that bulls (toes, testicles and teeth) have been checked (book in your Bull Breeding Soundness examinations asap) and are ready to go.

I am pleased to report we have had a very promising uptake of our new beef suckler advisory package, with many herds taking advantage of the opportunity for a more proactive approach, working closely with their vets to drive their businesses forwards. We are looking forward to our first on farm beef meeting and social – how fantastic it will be to be able to get together and share ideas in person – I can't wait!



For further information on our Beef Suckler Advisory Package please visit Synergy's Beef Suckler Herd Web Page: www.synergyfarmhealth.com/vet-services/beef/suckler-herd-2/

Meet the Team

Rachel Light

Rachel joined Synergy in June 2020 as Veterinary Support Assistant for our Salisbury area. She provides support to both our vets and farming clients from our base at Lower Woodford, including medicine deliveries to farm. Rachel is well known in the Salisbury area and is experienced in both the agricultural and veterinary sectors. Outside of work Rachel enjoys horse riding, walking, and rearing goats.



Seasonal Dispensary Offers



ECTOFLY
2.5L £36
5L £60



CLIK EXTRA
2.2L £105
5L £192



SPOTINOR
250ML £30
500ML £43

Other sizes available



TAURADOR
1L £68 2.5L £105
5L £185



ENOVEX PO
2.5L £29

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

#synergytweets!

Follow us on Social Media:

@SynergyFarmVets @SynergyFarmHealth

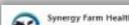
#leadon



Synergy Farm Health

@SynergyFarmVets

As vets we often get to see sheep dogs "working sheep". These highly trained "professionals" are controlled and disciplined. Sheep "worrying" by dogs off the lead is relentless leading to distress and injury. Do your bit, remember to keep the #leadon @natssheep



Synergy Farm Health

@SynergyFarmVets

All set up and ready to go for a marathon semen testing day today. Making sure your bulls are all set pre-mating is a key part of a successful service period. We were also able to pull out a few boys that need a quick going over by the foot trimmer. #bullfertility #foottrimming



1:30 pm - 8 May 2021 - Buffer

#bullfertility