



Synergy's COVID-19 Protocol Since Freedom Day



Even though we have now passed "Freedom Day", Synergy Farm Health will continue to do all we can to protect the health of our team and clients. Our aim is to enable the continued functionality of both our business and yours.

- ◆ We continue to restrict access to all of our sites
- ◆ Our teams will still operate within their designated bubbles
- ◆ Staff will adhere to our Covid measures whilst with clients—including wearing masks when social distancing is not feasible

August 2021

- New Sheep Dipping Service
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New Service as Sheep Scab cases rise

The Synergy Farm Health team is proud to announce it has officially joined forces with award winning NR Fell Mobile Sheep Dipping. The two companies have entered into a Joint Venture Partnership to bring a new Livestock Service into Synergy's pioneering 'Vet Tech' provision – Mobile Plunge Sheep Dipping.

Our lorry, based near Dorchester, will enable us to be responsive to cases of sheep scab, carry out planned flock dipping for fly control or adhoc pre-sale treatments, working across the Southwest and South Wales.



We have admired and recommended the service of Neil Fell and his innovative mobile sheep dipping provision, for the past few years. Neil has been extremely supportive to flocks across the UK from his Northumberland base.

The commission and delivery of our new, state of the art lorry, enables us to drive to site, set up and dip any size or location of flock. The whole process is self-contained. The flat bed of the lorry has a custom built hydraulically controlled dipping basket, to ensure gradual, smooth, plunge dipping of sheep into the tank of dip.

sheep to stand after dipping. Service includes full removal and licensed disposal of all remaining dip.

How does it work?

A number of sheep simply walk up a race, straight in to a cage over a tank of dip. Each group is dipped for one minute, fully submerged for around one second at least twice within that minute. The calm process, with minimal flock handling, ensures the dip has time to ingress into the fleece. We use Gold Fleece Sheep Dip from Bimeda® for the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike, ticks, keds, lice and scab infestations.

The design

Minimises exposure of any staff to the dip with an in built area for

FAQs

- No flock too big or too small
- Available to all flocks
- Needs a relatively flat area of hard standing to operate on
- Sheep need to be presented penned, dry and well rested before dipping with no lesions or lameness issues
- Minimum two weeks post shearing
- Suitable for ewes close to lambing and lambs from 6 - 8 weeks old
- Gold Fleece has a 49 day meat withdrawal period
- All excess dip removed from site for licenced disposal

For more information or to book please call Neil Fell on 07967 596134



"A chip off the old block" ... or is she?



Many farmers may be surprised but we consistently see 5-10% of a group of heifers with a 'sire mismatch' i.e. the bull you think is the sire is in fact *not* the true dad - we have seen this go as high as 15%. There is no hiding from the DNA test! Is this an issue?

- ◆ If you are using a semen company to do a mating program then obviously a number of animals will be 'incorrectly' bred and this may increase inbreeding levels. 10% in each generation soon multiplies up to a large chunk of the herd!
- ◆ **IF** the mismatches are discovered all is well going forward **BUT** those individuals may not have the ideal parent combination and again may be more inbred than planned; we know that this affect the animals' performance.

XXXXXX FARM
PARENTAGE REPORT FOR 2020 BORN HEIFERS

12/99 mismatch sires (one unable to confirm) = 12%
Parentage corrections made recorded by AHDB
For any pedigree registered animals the herd society should be informed to correct the stud book

Submitted Sire (AHDB)	Bull name S	Genomic Sire (AHDB)	Bull name G (true sire)	Submitted/Genomic Sire Match (AHDB)
HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	HOL840M003143383922	Altacabot	Mismatch
HOLUSAM003128978037	Seagull Bay Tendoy	HOL840M003143383922	Altacabot	Mismatch
HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	HOL840M003141559859	Denovo Sangria	Mismatch
HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	HOLUSAM00073953444	Altatopshot	Mismatch
HOLUSAM00073953444	Altatopshot	HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	Mismatch
HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	HOL840M003128978037	Seagull Bay Tendoy	Mismatch
HOLUSAM003143383922	Altacabot	HOL840M003128978037	Seagull Bay Tendoy	Mismatch
HOLUSAM003141559859	Denovo Sangria	HOLUSAM00073953444	Altatopshot	Mismatch
HOLUSAM003143383922	Altacabot	HOL840M003143383940	Bomaz Luxor	Mismatch
HOLUSAM003141559859	Denovo Sangria	HOL840M003143383922	Altacabot	Mismatch
HOLUSAM003141559859	Denovo Sangria	Unable to Genomically Confirm Sire	?	Mismatch
HOLUSAM003143383940	Bomaz Luxor	HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	Mismatch
HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	HOLUSAM00071074469	Altaentrust	Match
HOLUSAM003143383922	Altacabot	HOL840M003143383922	Altacabot	Match
HOLUSAM003143383922	Altacabot	HOL840M003143383922	Altacabot	Match

How does it happen?

- ◆ In theory incorrectly labelled straws (unlikely)
- ◆ Straws stored in the wrong tank goblet and labels not checked before thawing
- ◆ Wrong straw in wrong cow – more likely with several straws loaded at once/doing large groups of animals
- ◆ Incorrect tagging e.g. after a busy night/weekend of calving

So it is useful to know the rate and the actual mismatches – this in itself may make genomic testing worthwhile... as well as all the other benefits ... For more information please contact the Practice and we will arrange for Mark to give you a call back.

Mark Burnell
SFH Genomics
Consultant Vet



Meet the Team



Abbie Brister Abbie joined Synergy in 2010 and is now our Laboratory Supervisor, based at Evershot. Abbie has a special interest in parasitology and microbiology (that would be your faecal and Mastitis samples!). Since graduating with a BSc in Applied Bioscience last year Abbie is enjoying finding more time for her hobbies; walking and training her dog, gardening and finally getting back to sitting around a firepit with friends!

#synergytweets!

Follow us on Social Media:



We welcome new RVC Intern



Hi I'm James O'Hara, I've switched Mam Tor in the Peak District for the Jurassic Coast and Glastonbury Tor. I have recently graduated from the Royal Veterinary College and I'm looking forward to meeting you all. I have a keen interest in sustainability and the way we farm, rear and consume, so we can maintain the welfare and quality of our livestock and our countryside as we know it. Outside of work I enjoy rugby and rowing, restoring my old Mercedes and I'm hoping to pick back up my saxophone! I will be living in our Central region near to Dorchester and attending calls in all areas of the practice.

GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY SHOW: 18th -19th Aug Stand B28

We will be at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury Show this August! We look forward to welcoming you back on our stand for coffee, cake and a chat!

The impact of Heat Stress on Lameness

As I write we are in the middle of some welcome dry and sunny weather, although as in recent years temperatures have gone rather crazy, causing us Brits to moan yet again about the weather!

Spare a thought or two for all our hard working, food producing farm animals. Heat stress we know will cause loss of production, impaired weight gains, interruption in fertility, increased risk of disease and causes the animal much stress and discomfort.

As a foot trimmer I'm taking particular notice of our dairy cows standing around in groups trying desperately to deal with the heat and keep cool. These patterns of increased standing times will almost certainly increase the risk of lameness in our herds. Knock on effects are usually softening of hooves, lots more sole bruising/hemorrhaging, then sole ulcers in some cases causing long term damage.

We can't control or do much about the weather but we can certainly take measures to improve the living environment for our dairy cows.



Large fans in the cubicle sheds will encourage cows to lie and rest

- ◆ Ensure cattle sheds are well ventilated and prevent direct sunlight.
- ◆ Lower the temperature in sheds/collecting yards by installing large fans or sprinklers.

- ◆ Ensure cows have free access to plenty of clean drinking water.
- ◆ For grazing herds, bring cows and feed inside during the hottest part of the day and graze them during the night.
- ◆ Make sure grazing animals have access to shade.
- ◆ Maybe modify your feeding regime and adjust diets in consultation with nutritionist/vet.
- ◆ Make sure those cows most at risk of increased lameness (peak production) have had their 80–100 day hoof trim. Well balanced hooves, with the weight off the sole ulcer site are less at risk.
- ◆ Good fly control, to limit nuisance flies bothering already stressed animals.

As an ex-herdsman I fully appreciate the difficulties and frustrations trying to manage and look after animals during spells of extreme temperatures. It's certainly not easy but something we must all take steps to monitor and factor into future plans, as these extreme weather events seem to occur more frequently.

**Dave Frecknall
Vet Tech Manager**



Synergy Training Courses

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

Safe Use Of Veterinary Medicines (General)
Evershot 2nd September 10am – 2pm

Milksure Course Part 1
Evershot 7th September 11am – 1pm

Safe Use Of Veterinary Medicines (Sheep)
Evershot 28th October 10am – 2pm

News from our Rounds

Tom Warboys

Many of our clients have engaged with the national BVD Stamp It Out programme, which started several years ago. Having seen clients go to the effort of testing for and eradicating BVD, it would be great to see the health and efficiency benefits continuing into the future. Improved health and welfare of stock has been widespread across many herds.

Registering on the BVD Free website is a good way to market that disease-free status to potential buyers. Many of you have told me you'll only be buying BVD-free stock in future. I would encourage signing up to the CheCS organisation to receive accreditation - the ongoing testing and biosecurity requirements are beneficial for other infectious diseases that will be threatening herd health besides BVD, such as IBR, leptospirosis, Johnes and TB.



Tom Cook

One minute it is roasting hot with sweat pouring from our waterproofs, next it seems we are dodging a deluge. It has been good weather for grass growth after a slow spring but the variation in cutting dates means getting your silage analysed will be as important as ever ahead of the winter, hopefully your silage pits are bulging with quality feed.

I have seen a few LDAs lately in recently calved Holsteins at grass, the high demands of these cows and the variability of pasture means that they need particular TLC to keep them performing at their best.

I finish with a reminder to stay safe at this busy time of year with extra summer jobs and long daylight hours. I hope you can all take some time to get away from the farm either physically or mentally and spend some time with your loved ones or for some self care.



News from our Rounds

Sam Cottam

I write this on the hottest day of the year so far – a barmy 28°C on the south Dorset coast, where the grass is still jumping out of the ground.



The Spring calving season seems to have gone quite well overall, despite a slow start to grass growth earlier in the year.

We will be doing the big final PD sessions on these herds shortly. This is when I wish I had a third arm (I don't actually live on Portland)!

The autumn calving herds are just starting to calve with the early herds off to a good start. Forage inventory seems well above average with more on the horizon; this should allow for profitable rations this winter.

Finally I'm sure you would all join me in raising a glass to the newly married Emily Gascoigne and Husband Adam. Congratulations!

Charlotte Debbaut

Lately, I seem to spend a lot more time stuck in traffic on the A303. Without following the news, I know this must mean lockdown is ending and summer is in town (silver linings)!



July brought a new addition to the North team: Tom Woolacott. Now he has successfully finished his internship we thought we could not go wrong by adding another Tom to our vet team, three is a charm after all!

The most memorable event this month was definitely Pete's achievement of bringing a 102kg Holstein Friesian heifer calf into the world by caesarean section. I can't wait to follow her growth curve and compare it to her peers.

Getting weights really is an interesting exercise for any calf on any farm. We can help you with the weighing process or with interpretation of the results, just get in touch with your vet to get the ball rolling.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To our sheep specialist **Emily Gascoigne** and client **Adam Smith** for finally getting married on Saturday 17th July, after having to delay their plans due to COVID-19. We wish them every happiness in their future together.



'Gladis Law' gets government support after Synergy Client reaches millions on social media

The Gladis Law campaign was started by Dorset farmer and Synergy Client, Cameron Farquharson, following a recent dog attack which killed his pregnant Highland cow. Cameron said at the time of the attack that it 'should never have happened' as it was an 'act of complete negligence'. His petition has so far gathered 4,000 signatures, reaching well over 4 million people through social media channels.

For more visit: https://www.farminguk.com/news/-gladis-law-gets-government-support-after-reaching-millions_58571.html

Seasonal Dispensary Offers



ZOLVIX
500ML £101.50
1L £160.19
2.5L £395.00



SPOTINOR
500ML £39.00
1L £61.00

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



CYDECTIN 2% INJECTION
50ML £18.50
200ML £71.00

Medicines Update

Opticlox Eye Ointment

Due to a nationwide manufacturing problem with Opticlox, we will now be supplying **Orbenin Ophthalmic Ointment** as an alternative eye preparation and can be ordered in single syringes or as multiples.



Tetra Delta

There has been a long-term manufacturing problem with **Tetra Delta**. Investigations to identify solutions and secure ongoing supply have not been successful. As a result, the pharmaceutical company has made the decision to discontinue this product. Please speak to your vet to discuss suitable alternatives.

Trodax

There has been an issue with supply of this Flukicide in the UK, we now have an alternative equivalent product available on an import licence. Please contact Dispensary to discuss.

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