

Newsletter

Jan
2015



Staff changes

Sadly Samara will be leaving us at the end of February to fulfil an ambition of her's to work in New Zealand and travel the world. She has been with us for over 2 years now and many of you will know her well from her previous job. Her lively and bubbly nature, as well as her love for the job, will be missed by all here at the practice and we wish her all the best on her new adventure !

"Wow, what a great privilege it has been to have started my veterinary career here in Somerset. I have been so lucky working with such a fantastic team, and the farmers have not just been clients but have become great friends. I am certainly going to miss you all very much and wish everyone well in the future" – Samara.



Samara will be having a farewell drink with clients at the Bell at Standerwick next to Frome market on the 27th February at 7.30pm



Richard Talbot will be joining our farm animal team on a full time basis replacing Samara. He starts on the 23rd February and is very much looking forward to his move from North Devon where he is currently working in a rural farm animal practice. His interests relate to all aspects of farm work but especially in mastitis control and prevention. He is originally from the Isle of Wight where he worked for the first 2 years of his career in mixed practice before moving to North Devon to do farm only work. Outside of work he is a very keen mountain biker and enjoys cycle touring.

LARGE ANIMAL VETS: Greg Mallard BVSc MRCVS, Duncan Williams BVMS MRCVS, Chris Mangham BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS, Georgina Doel BVetMed MRCVS, Vicky Webster BVSc MRCVS, Samara Johnstone BSc BVetMed MRCVS James Ryder BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS, Dru Shearn BVSc MRCVS
Veterinary surgeries at: Frome, Warminster, Westbury and Trowbridge
01373 451115

Alternatives for parasite control in sheep

One of our clients, Tim White, has been performance recording his sheep for over 25 years aiming for improvements in many traits including DLWG, muscle depth, maternal ability and worm resistance. Special focus has been paid to worm resistance in recent years as it is the greatest health problem faced by commercial lamb producers and the third largest profit influencer after DLWG and lambs reared per ewe.



Worm resistance is bred for by measuring FWC of individual lambs between 7 and 10 months old and ranking the counts into EBV's using relevant counts from an individual's ancestors, siblings and contemporaries. This information is used to select for the breeding animals. Last year a study was carried out by Tim using a grant from Sainsbury's into the effectiveness of using the FEC EBV's in the breeding strategy.

The full study results can be found at the following link for anyone who is interested - <http://www.provensheddingsheep.co.uk/news>.

The study measured FEC of ewes before lambing and during lactation of 40 ewes with good worm resistance EBV's and 40 ewes with poor worm resistance EBV's.

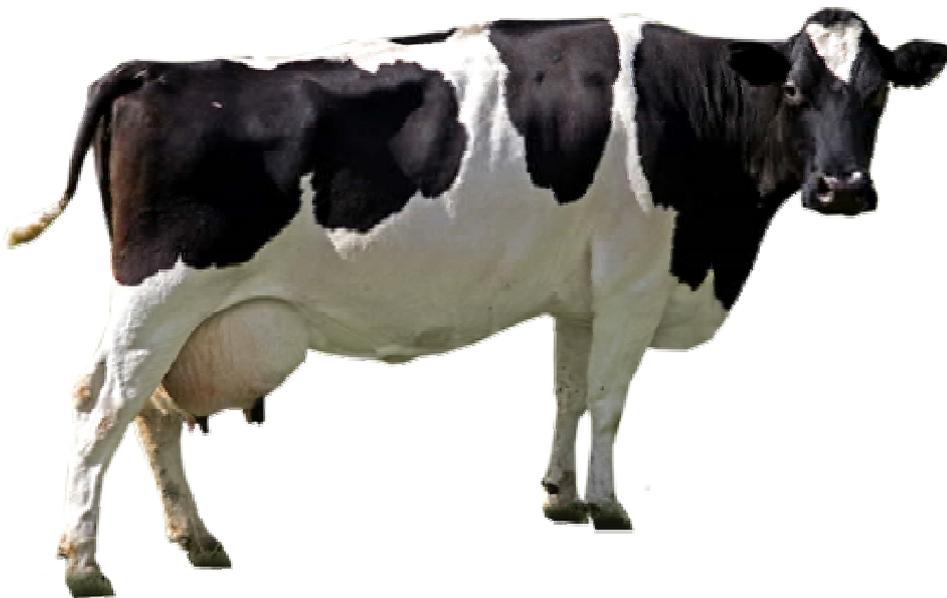
The results were analysed by Dr. Eric Morgan of Bristol University. The simple message is that ewes with good worm resistance EBVs shed 30% less worm eggs over the peri-parturient period than ewes with poor worm resistance EBVs---this increased to 50% at peak times. This will lead to reduced pasture egg counts and worm burdens for young vulnerable lambs and is another useful tool in controlling parasites in sheep, and is likely to become more important as more worm populations develop resistance. In practical terms this means the number of drenches a lamb receives in its lifetime will be gradually reduced and animals are never drenched once they get into their first winter.

Youngstock colostrum monitoring

We are now running a free youngstock colostrum monitoring program at the practice headed up by Georgina and Dru. As many of you will already be aware we are aiming to get a practice-wide picture of passive transfer of immunity on all our dairy herds by taking 5 bloods at the routine visit of calves aged between 24hrs and 10 days. This will give us an indication as to colostrum quality and whether the calves are getting enough within their first 24hrs of life. Ensuring adequate good quality colostrum is key to calf health, growth rates and future production. For any further information or if you have any questions at all please contact the office.



Garston mobility scorer



Many of you will now have requirements to routinely mobility score as part of your milk contract and as a result we have trained Carmen Norris, one of our reception team, to do the DairyCo mobility score system of lameness monitoring. She will be available to do mobility scoring from the beginning of February in the afternoons from 2pm onwards for **£30/hr**. The benefits of mobility scoring routinely are that it allows you to accurately monitor and continually assess levels of lameness on your farm and so react to new cases before they become chronic lame cows. Carmen will be able to feed the information back to your foot trimmer or vet and so help get and stay on top of lameness.

TB tendering update

As I'm sure most of you are aware the contract for TB testing work on farms was put out to tender last September by APHA. The method to be used will be a 'delivery partner' company that is responsible for managing all the testing in a lot area and we fall within 'South West 2'. Several companies submitted their tenders before the deadline in September but unfortunately the award of contracts has been delayed for complex legal reasons. The new system was scheduled to take effect from 1st April but now seems likely to be delayed as that is only a few weeks away.

Once the contracts are awarded (assuming the General Election doesn't get in the way) the delivery partners are obliged to contact you asking who you would prefer to do your government TB testing (this is separate from pre-movement testing which will continue as before). In most cases it is expected farmers will choose to continue using their own local practices.

As soon as we know more we will let you know about how things will change.

Greg's Useless Facts

No words in the English language rhyme with MONTH

There are only 4 words in the English language that end in 'dous' (answers at the bottom !)



The easiest way to pay your bill.

If you'd like to pay your vet bill by direct debit please contact reception for a form.

