

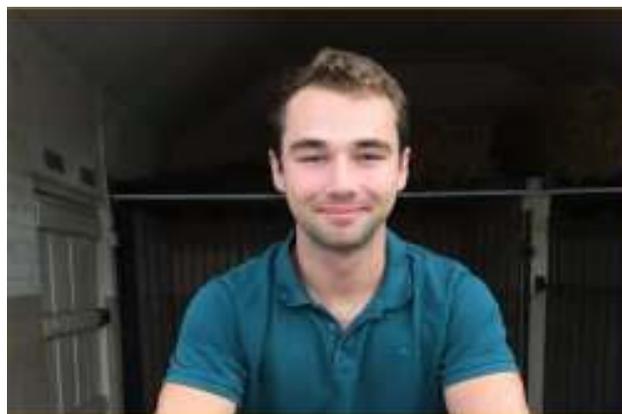
Newsletter

Nov
2015



Welcome to our new farm vet

We would like to welcome Alex Roberts to the Farm Department. Alex joined us in August this year after graduating from Bristol University in July. Originally from Worcestershire, he is looking forward to all aspects of farm animal work but has a keen interest in youngstock. Outside of work he is a keen sportsman, playing rugby and any racket sports as well as enjoying time with friends. Alex is looking forward to meeting you all, hopefully not too soon though!



Good luck to Georgina !

At the end of August we gave our best wishes to Georgina as she started maternity leave for her second baby, due in October. Good luck to George and husband Alex, and we look forward to keeping you all up to date with their progress in the coming months. Hopefully as a second calver it will all go smoothly.

Upcoming courses

Lambing course

This course will be a chance to ask any questions and practice lambing technique on real lambs in a lambing simulator. Topics will include how to prepare for the lambing period, what you will need to have on farm, signs of lambing and any difficulties, and any problems during and after lambing as well as a recap on vaccination and worming.

Lameness course

This course will be practical based in small groups with individual instruction on updates to foot trimming technique, common foot conditions and their treatment and prevention followed by a lunch to discuss the mornings objectives and any questions you may have. There will also be an instruction DVD on Mobility Scoring with more information available if wanted about the DairyCo Healthy Feet Program the practice now runs.

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

Cold calves !

The next few weeks will see us enter lower temperatures. This is an important time for youngstock with regards to pneumonia and growth rates. When the temperature drops to a certain level a point will be reached where the calf's metabolism has to increase its metabolic rate to maintain its body heat. This is called the 'lower critical temperature' (LCT). For a 100kg heifer in a dry environment on a still day this is approximately 15°C. In conditions colder than this the calf has to expend energy to keep warm.

If energy is being spent on maintaining temperature, less is available for the calf to grow. There will also be a pressure placed on the calves' immune system, creating disease outbreaks.

If the environment is wet or if the wind is blowing at calf level the LCT can rise to over 20°C - A temperature that is unlikely to occur in winter! For newborns and younger animals the LCT is even higher.

Top tips to avoid calves being challenged in this way are:

- ❑ **Moisture management** – removing as much water from the environment as possible, this includes at feeding stations and passage ways. Even water not directly in contact with the calves will lower the temperature inside the shed.
- ❑ **Calf Jackets** – All calves from birth to 4 weeks of age will benefit enormously from a calf jacket. Once washed they can be reused on younger calf's.
- ❑ **Draughts** – Preventing draughts with effective cladding at the level of the calf will stop the LCT from rising.
- ❑ **Heaters** – 'Quartz linear heaters' are incredibly effective at providing heat directly to calves without making the air 'stuffy'. One heater is enough for 20 calves, and are very simple and cheap to install.

Calf jackets can be purchased from the practice, if anyone would like to discuss further management strategies to avoid production losses over the coming months please feel free to contact Dru.



Dairy Event

This year we will again have our stand at the Dairy Event on the Bath and West Showground on Wednesday 7th October. At the stand we will have cakes and cider as well as information on the Youngstock and Lameness programs the practice is now running. Come and have a chat or just pop in for a free drink and some cake!

We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Greg's Useless Fact

Only female mosquitoes bite, and they are attracted to their prey by detecting CO₂ levels. As you breathe out you release CO₂ which lets them know where you are, even in the dark

Top tip: If you want to avoid getting bitten hold your breath all night.

