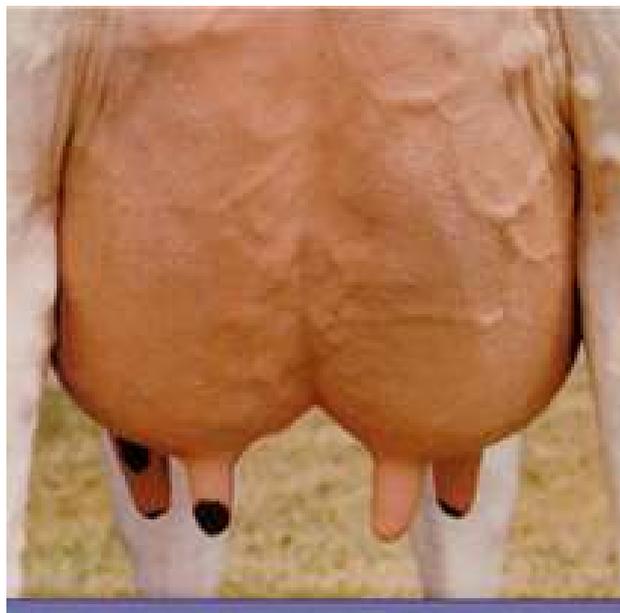


Velactis

You may remember that Velactis was released as a new product earlier in the year as a product to aid the drying off of cows. It works by inhibiting the production of Prolactin which effectively switches off milk production immediately which has huge benefits for the health and welfare of the cows it is used in. Unfortunately the product was suddenly withdrawn from the market not long after it was first released because of some adverse reactions, predominantly in Denmark. The product was withdrawn from sale and any unused product returned to the manufacturer Ceva.

So what was happening ?

What was really odd was that Denmark reported more adverse reactions than the rest of Europe put together and investigations there now suggest the way cows are dried off in Denmark may be causing the problem. The cows were becoming recumbent 8 to 24 hours after treatment and many responded to Calcium if treated in time. In total 40,000 doses of Velactis were used and just over 100 animals showed adverse reactions. Ceva intend to bring the product back to market at some time in the future once further trials are conducted and the exact sequence of events that cause the cows to react is established.



One thing this does demonstrate is the tightly controlled nature of prescription drugs in Europe where products have to demonstrate efficacy (prove they actually work) as well as safety, which is not always the case in the rest of the world. Adverse reactions are thankfully infrequent but do occur (just think of penicillin in humans) and this is the reason drug manufacturing and sales are so tightly controlled. It is also the reason why new drugs take a long time to come to the market at great expense to the producer.

Georgina's back !



Georgina has returned to work at the practice after her maternity leave. She has returned as our Clinical Coordinator for the farm practice. She will develop new services that we can offer to you and has lots of ideas !

We will soon be running our practice wide calf sampling survey again to establish calf immunity from colostrum intake. As before we will compile the results in an anonymous way so that you can see how you are doing. Although the results table is a bit of fun, the reason for doing it is crucially important and makes a huge difference to calf health potentially saving you a lot of time and money.

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,
Richard Talbot BVSc MRCVS, Alex Roberts BVSc MRCVS, Ben Hurst BSc (Hons) BVetMed (Hons) MRCVS

Veterinary surgeries at: Frome, Warminster, Westbury and Trowbridge

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Show success !

A client of ours, James Sage, has had considerable success with his pigs this year. He was only going to two shows, Bath & West and Royal 3 Counties. He won the supreme pig championship at the Bath & West with his July Hampshire boar Blewett Peterbilt 70, the first time a Hampshire had won the title there. He won the supreme pig championship at the Royal 3 Counties with his July Hampshire gilt Blewett Precious 76.

These championships qualified them for the British Pig Association Pig of the Year competition at the Great Yorkshire show. The competition was for pigs that have won at 14 various County shows throughout the year. James won the BPA Pig of the Year with a Hampshire Boar – Blewett Peterbilt 70. This was the first time that a Hampshire had claimed the title.

James has kept Hampshire pigs for the last 5 years at the family holding in Hinton Blewett.

He had originally decided not to go the Great Yorkshire as his brother was getting married on the Friday in Cheshire, but he couldn't forego such an opportunity as this. James went with his father, Graham on the Tuesday, showed the pigs on Wednesday and traveled back to Somerset that afternoon, had a quick shower and then they then traveled north on Thursday for the wedding.

These terrific results must be down to the veterinary care!



Herd Health Plans

Pretty much every farm has to have a herd health plan these days as well as other policies for things such as BVD, Johnes, Antibiotic use, etc etc. Whilst they may seem a bit of a pain they are and can be very useful. A herd health plan is not something hurriedly concocted the day before an audit, but is something that should be discussed and considered at regular intervals.

We would like to help you get the most out of these requirements rather than you trying to get a last minute signature to comply with audit requirements. Over the next few months you may get a call from us to discuss this so that we can proactively help you get the paper work up to date but more importantly understand why it is important and useful to you. The discussions about the plans and your farm performance can be at a time convenient to you and you should have enough time to discuss the items properly. It is amazing how often these discussions lead onto important things that affect the performance of your farm and can make a big difference to your bottom line. If you want to get on and discuss these items straight away then please call the surgery now.

Greg's Useless (educational) Fact !

Railway companies standardised time in the UK !

Before the railways each town in the UK kept it's own time and because the sun sets later in the west places such as Plymouth were as much as 20 minutes behind London. This didn't really work with train timetables so in 1840 GWR established 'Railway time' which was the same as GMT and became the standard time for the UK.

