

Newsletter May 2011

It was lovely to see so many of you at the North Somerset Show, we had a great day. It was nice to speak to you all over a cup of tea with no time pressures! Congratulations to Tom Bye who won our 'Rectal the cow' competition.

Due to popular demand, we are re-running our BVD and Johne's awareness meeting. This will allow you to be enrolled onto the 'Healthy Livestock' scheme where 70% funding is available to diagnose and assess the issues on your farm, and to allow a preventative plan to be implemented. These are probably two of the most serious infectious diseases, which it is estimated are causing problems on over half of the UK farms, commonly without the farmer realising they have the problem. The meeting will be held at Redhill at 12pm on the 26th May, lunch will be provided, please call the office to book your place.

We are continuing to recruit farms onto our lameness and mastitis programmes; again this has 70% funding through the Healthy Livestock project. This funding comes from European modulation; this is re-routed to help you with health and welfare on your farms so it really does make sense to use it.

Silage making is now in full thrust. We have come across several incidences this year where soil contamination of conserved feed has caused disease problems. The most common one is of course Listeriosis, this can present as so called 'silage eye' or the more severe meningitis. The bacterial spores live in the soil and so when incorporated into feed multiply and infect the animal. Clostridial diseases such as Black Leg and Malignant oedema can also arrive via the same route. Silage spoil will tend to allow the growth of fungi that produce mycotoxins, this causes scour and digestive upsets commonly. Another consideration is lead contamination of soil. It is always sensible to try and avoid cutting ground with molehills where soil contamination is more likely and ensure all ground to be cut is well rolled.

Fly season is upon us a little early this year so it may be sensible to treat lambs early to try and prevent strike. Also cows need treating, especially dry cows to prevent summer mastitis and 'new forest eye.'

Don't forget we can arrange discount vouchers for the neutering and spaying of all 'feral/farm' cats. Please call our Summer Lane branch to arrange this.