

July 2026 Newsletter

Medicine Changes

With the challenge of supply issues of some medicines here's a little guide, and some updates.

- ⇒ Clamox RTU = Synulox = Combiclav = Clavon
But its important to watch the extended withdrawals - Meat and Milk (**It's an import**)
- ⇒ Huvexxin = Tulissin = Draxxin
Huvexxin and Tulissin when available are cheaper than Draxxin.
- ⇒ Censutrim = Diatrim = Norodine
- ⇒ 250ml bottles of Alamyacin LA 300 with plastic cage now available.
- ⇒ Cholvite Boluses - For treatment of Fatty liver (2 boluses per cow are available) ref recent farmers meeting.



Cryptosporidium Scours in calves - Bovilis Cryptium Vaccine

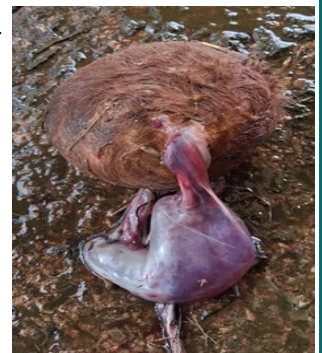
Are you one of many who experiences Crypto Scours in your calves? As you may be aware there is now a vaccine available - Bovilis Cryptium. Given to the pregnant cow in the dry period - Immunity is conferred by feeding the colostrum and transition milk to the calf.

The initial first year course is 2 injections then 1 booster annually.

Therefore the first year is the most expensive, and therefore to help you get your herd vaccinated we are offering a **BUY ONE GET ONE FREE** offer on Bovilis Cryptium until the end of August.

Parasitic Twins

On a Monday morning, Rya was called to assist a calving in a dairy cow with an unusual presentation. The cervix was fully dilated and a healthy calf could be felt, but a smooth, hairy mass was blocking the way. Rya was able to free the mass from the placental membranes and remove it with a hook, making way for the healthy Lim cross calf to be born. The hairy mass is a rare phenomenon called an "amorphous globosus", a type of non-viable deformed twin. This one was noticed as it awkwardly blocked the birth canal but they can be smaller and may go unseen, wrapped up in the placental membranes. Amorphous globosus is not unique to cattle, and has been seen in other farm species including sheep and horses. They are associated with multiple births as they rely on the blood supply and normal developmental processes of their healthy sibling. They are not heritable and are the result of a random embryological failure, leading to no recognisable skeleton or organs, apart from the skin and navel-like structure. They are thought to be as rare as 1 in every 3,500 pregnancies. This cow had calved normally in previous years and is expected to do so again.



DigiFarm

Just a reminder about Digifarm:

As part of our ongoing Royal College Veterinary Surgeons Practice Standards Scheme (PSS) we are required to have a prescription in place alongside a tailored treatment plan for each client when you collect drugs from any of our offices.

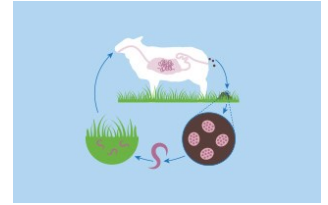
These prescriptions and treatment plans need to be completed on an annual basis for each species.

All clients that have an email address registered to their account with us will receive a copy of their prescription and treatment plan once completed, via our DigiFARM software. Any questions please contact Holly at Bridgwater on 01278663399.

Worms in Sheep

Commercial Flock Club talk summary: Worms and Worm Egg Counts:

Worms are a serious issue in the UK sheep industry. Deaths caused by parasitic gastroenteritis has been the most frequent diagnosis from post-mortem reports from government Veterinary Investigation Centres since 2016. Anthelmintic resistance is being more frequently recognized on farms in the Southwest and now is the time to act before the pasture burdens becoming overwhelming and difficult to control. Each farm will have its own unique resistance pattern throughout the year. There are several worm species that have different hatching conditions and disease-causing abilities, including the blood-sucking *Haemonchus contortus* (Barbers pole worm). This worm was previously a “tropical parasite”, rarely seen in the UK but is now wide-spread across South England and has caused disease and deaths in Scotland.



Worm Egg Counts (WEC) are a sample taken as a snapshot in time. A WEC alone can indicate the burden of the animals sampled but WEC in series can indicate rising burdens in a group and help to time treatments so that there is minimal loss of production i.e. growth rates are not significantly impacted. Taking a WEC sample before treating not only confirms the need for treating, but provides a base value for reading post-drench checks against. A pre- and post-treatment WEC value can correlate to treatment efficacy. Several factors affect treatment efficacy, including human error, uncalibrated equipment, improperly stored or out of date products, and anthelmintic resistance.

To discuss worm management plans for you flock, please contact the practice and speak with Rya. There is currently funding for a visit and tailored advice in the form of Animal Health and Welfare pathway.

Common Summer Plant Poisonings

Summer grazing conditions in Somerset can increase the risk of livestock poisoning. While most animals avoid poisonous species when good forage is available, drought, overgrazing, hedge cutting, ditch access and contaminated hay or silage can increase exposure.

Ragwort  A widespread weed in Somerset pastures and field margins that causes liver damage. Cattle often present with photosensitisation signs as a result of the liver damage, sun burns, scabby lesions on white areas and sloughing of the skin and require supportive care, shade and anti-inflammatories. St. Johns Wort will cause similar poisonings. Fresh plants are often avoided, but dried ragwort in hay or silage remains highly toxic and is readily eaten by cattle.	Hemlock  Hemlock is often found along field margins, ditches, and neglected ground. All parts of the plant are poisonous, containing neurotoxins that can cause tremors, paralysis, respiratory failure, and death. Livestock are most at risk when forage is scarce or when hemlock contaminates silage.	Water Hemlock Dropwort  Often regarded as one of the most poisonous native plants in the UK, water hemlock dropwort (<i>Oenanthe</i> species), grows in wet areas, ditches, and stream margins. The roots are especially toxic and can cause rapid onset of convulsions, respiratory distress, and sudden death in grazing livestock. The roots are known as '<u>Dead mans fingers</u>'.	Foxglove  This wildflower is common in hedgerows and woodland edges. It contains potent cardiac toxins causing sudden death and can be dangerous if accidentally incorporated into forage.	Bracken Fern Common on Somerset hillsides and rough grazing land, bracken can cause poisoning when consumed in significant quantities over time. Cattle are most commonly affected, developing bone marrow suppression and bloody urine. Oak/Acorns Acorns and young oak leaves contain tannins that can cause kidney damage and digestive upset. While most cases occur in autumn, young leaves can pose a risk during late spring and early summer, particularly to cattle
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Prevention remains the best defense against plant poisonings as often there is no effective treatment for cases. Regular pasture inspection and removal of weeds/spraying or fencing off risk areas is key. Monitoring wet areas especially when the water levels drop and allow less access to ditches to avoid water hemlock exposure.