



FARM ANIMAL SERVICES
DELAWARE
VETERINARY GROUP

Dedicated to Excellence in Animal Health



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Seasonal challenges for your herd

by Candice Popham BVetMed MRCVS

As we creep towards the end of Autumn, Winter housing is fast approaching so it is important to be ready for the challenges that we may be faced with in the coming weeks. Pneumonia is a continuing threat throughout the colder months of the year. It is also worth bearing in mind that with the mild and wet weather that we have been experiencing, this provides ideal conditions for fluke. Please keep an eye out for updates across our social media platforms for more information and guidance.

Lameness

Lameness issues are heightened during the winter months, due to the prolonged time that animals are spending on concrete floors with regular contact with slurry. With this in mind, issues such as Digital Dermatitis (DD) are likely to become more noticeable during these months.

Cows that are prone to DD act as a reservoir of infection. It is important to continue monitoring hooves in the parlour and individually treating any cases promptly avoiding the risk of spreading infection to other animals. The use of anti-inflammatory treatment, such as Dinalgen (which has a zero milk withhold), has been proven to improve recovery rates.

Prior to housing it is important to review your approach to foot-bathing, as this forms an essential part of lameness control wherever infection such as DD occurs. Both the product and frequency of the foot bathing process are very important, but it is also worth bearing in mind the design of the footbath itself. This includes the use of a non-slip floor, which is at least 3 metres in length, to ensure that the cows are achieving at least two strides in the footbath solution.

We are lucky to have two RoMS registered mobility scorers within the practice, Chris and Giles. Please contact the practice for any more information.

Youngstock

Youngstock Management is a fundamental production stage on any farm enterprise. It is a huge opportunity for financial gain in terms of maximising growth, by reaching target weights in target time; but also in the prevention of disease, illness and mortality.

Over the last few months, as part of a recently established youngstock group, we have performed tailored calf health review visits. As part of these visits, we are able to diagnose the less profitable areas of the youngstock rearing process, and are able to make adjustments in order to refocus on producing better quality, well grown calves. We are able to advise on vaccinations, treatments, feeding and housing. For more information on our youngstock Services, please see the details below:

- ✓ **Stress Free Disbudding**
- ✓ **Growth weight monitoring**
- ✓ **Vaccinations**
- ✓ **Tailored reports and advice**
- ✓ **Colostrum testing**
- ✓ **Supernumerary teat removal**
- ✓ **Calf weighing**

Welcome to the team, Petra!

by Katie Goodwin

We are delighted to welcome Petra to the team. After spending the years since her graduation working in Large Animal Practice in the South of England, Petra has also spent time rearing calves in Scotland, and spending time with her partner who shares her passion for livestock. We look forward to Petra settling into the practice, and meeting with our clients over the next few weeks and months. Welcome to the team, Petra!



Office Updates

As some of you may have already noticed, we are thrilled to welcome Jo back into the practice following a period of ill health. Welcome back, Jo!

Katie Goodwin has joined the Vet Tech/Paraprofessional team. She is currently working alongside Candice to develop the youngstock programme. For more information, please feel free to contact the practice via our Youngstock email - youngstock@delawarevets.co.uk

TB Testing: Six-Monthly TB surveillance testing has come into place in the High Risk Areas (HRA) of England, from July 2021; therefore, we ask that you please book your test in as soon as possible, in order to achieve your preferred dates and times.

The Dairy Show 2021

A big thank you to those of you who visited the Delaware stand at The Dairy Show on Wednesday 6th October. It was great to see some familiar faces, and share a seemingly 'normal' day out as a team.

We wish to thank Wyke Farms, Westcombe Cheese, Montgomery's Cheese and Godminster for their kind donations towards our stand. Also thank you Alice and Lou Conway at Dorset Delights who provided a brilliant selection of pasties, sausage rolls and scones.

BATH & WEST
THE DAIRY SHOW

Upcoming Events

Drying off/SDCT Workshop

Lambing Workshop

Red Tractor Medicine Course *

DIY AI*

*Further information to follow,
please register your interest at the
practice