

Minsterly Show

Thank you to everyone who came and joined us for a drink and a beef roll at our stand. We hope you enjoyed it. The weather was fantastic and it was a great turn out. Thank you to those who entered our games and raffle the money donated goes to support our local charity Mind. We have drawn the raffle and the winners are listed below;

Winners

- 1ST Prize Visit + 20 Minutes –Terry Jones
Hermitage Farm
- 2nd Prize Visit Graham –Jones Garden House
- 3RD Prize 1x Bottle Rehydion –Mike Roberts
Day House
- 4TH Prize 2 x Calcium No 5 –Janet Wilson
- 5TH Prize Selection of needles and syringes –
Mr Price Woodlands

Congratulations



JOHNE'S DISEASE in Shropshire – An update...

As I discussed earlier in the year, January saw the launch of SFV's Reduction and Eradication of MAP (RE-MAP) program. This was followed in April by the start of the National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) an industry led initiative that will mean that all dairy producers will have to have Johne's action plans in place by the end of 2016.

Milk buyers and processors are making Johne's control and testing a requirement for more and more contracts. This, along with current studies underway into the treatment of Crohns' patients with MAP-sensitive antibiotics, means that Johne's will continue to be in the farming press for the foreseeable future.

The potential implications of these factors mean that dairy farming cannot ignore Johne's as a possible threat to the future of sustainable production.

Since its launch, we have seen a large number of our dairies take up the RE-MAP plan, and while eradicating Johne's can take several years, the sooner you start, the sooner you'll get there. It is for this reason that we will be holding a meeting on **23rd September, at 7pm, at The Four Crosses, Bicton, SY3 8EF** to discuss Johne's, the issues of financial, animal and human health and what can be done about it. We will be presenting current (anonymised) figures for Johne's disease on Shropshire farms and discussing Johne's testing and management strategies. We will be joined by NMR and I am looking forward to some thought provoking debate.

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CHARITY BIKE RIDE

On the evening of Friday September 11th the practice will be doing a sponsored bike ride raising money for two worthy charities – Send a Cow and MIND. Send a Cow helps farming communities in Africa through provision of livestock and training, and has so far helped free 1,000,000 people from poverty. MIND is a UK based mental health charity, which provides support for people experiencing mental health issues.

We will be leaving the practice after work on the Friday and then go on a 25 mile loop through the Shropshire countryside. The ride is being held as part of XL Vets' 10 year anniversary celebrations, where members of the group nationwide, will be covering 000 miles under their own steam, equivalent to the circumference of the earth!

If you would like to join us, sponsor us or turn up at the route to help support us, then we would really appreciate your involvement. Sponsorship forms are available at the practice and there is a link to our "Just Giving" page on our Facebook page and website. If you would like more details, or to find out about the route then please contact the practice or look on the website at:

www.shropshirefarmvets.co.uk

Nathan



TB Update for July

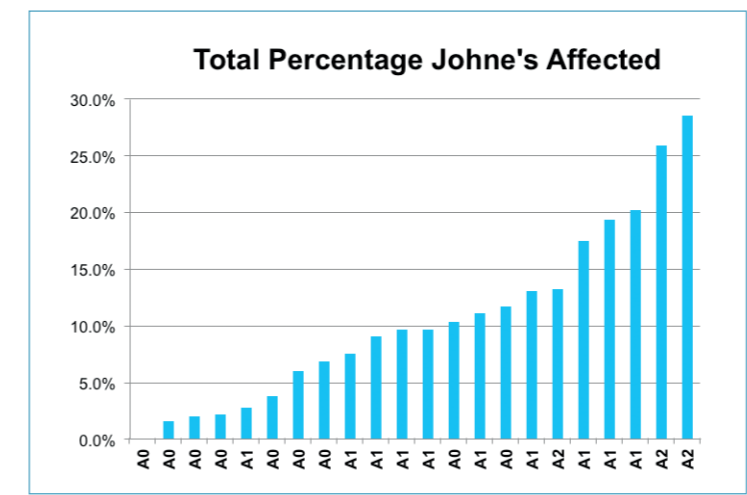
There were 50 tests carried out on the dot
The total numbers of animals tested were 5984
There were 5 inconclusive reactors overall and 45 reactors

Find us on social Media

 www.facebook.com/ShropshireFarmVets

 www.twitter.com/ShropFarmVets

Current levels of Total Johne's affected animals on Shropshire farms:



Continued overleaf

COURSE/WORKSHOP DATES

- BVD meeting Economics, Tag and Test, New Technology in vaccinations
17th September 7.30pm
Shrewsbury Town Football Club
- Johnes Discussion
23rd September 2015
- Sheep Lameness Workshop with Emily
Saturday 31st October 2015. It will be held at Shropshire Farm Vets 9am – 12pm
- AI course with Tim O'Sullivan
Tuesday 1st – Friday 4th December.
Venues and times TBC closer to date

If you are interested in any of the above please contact the Practice 01743 860920.

PRACTICE/DISPENSARY TIMES

Monday – Friday 8:15 – 17.30
Saturday/Sunday Closed

SHREWSBURY LIVESTOCK MARKET

Every Tuesday From 9.30am – 12 Noon
Please order the medications that you require for collection before 4pm the previous day.

From front page

Here you can see that only one of the 21 farms sampled currently have no suspect Johnes animals, while some have over a quarter of their herd affected!

While most of the current press regards dairy producers, Johnes control amongst beef producers is every bit as important, so I hope to see as many people there as possible.

If you would like any more information, or to book your place at the meeting please contact the practice on:

01743 860 920

Nathan

STAND UP TO STAMP OUT SHEEP LAMENESS!

Many thanks to those who attended the launch of XLs campaign for sheep lameness. There was a lot of positive feedback and it was great to have such a good turnout despite good weather (and a free pint courtesy of norbrook). For those of you who didn't, all is not lost.

Sheep lameness accounts for a significant loss across the UK (depending on whose research you look at up to £12/ewe mated). FAWC has released figures expecting <5% lameness by 2016 and <2% by 2021, current figures stand at 10% of the UK national flock being lame at any one time.

Along with better animal welfare, decreasing lameness within your flock is a fast track to improving your productivity. Sound sheep feed more, ovulate better and produce more milk, this in turn grows fatter lambs. Lambs that are not lame grow much faster and require less supplementing before leaving the farm.

The XL campaign aims to help cut lameness by using the five point plan (FAI). These steps are:

1. Quarantine – have a plan prepared for incoming sheep (including shows)
2. Vaccinate – foot rot vaccine licensed and available

3. Treat – quickly, within three days of going lame. Not necessarily trim
4. Avoid – reduce the build-up of disease and there reduce infection pressure
5. Cull – build resistance to lameness in the flock

To aid in decreasing lameness Shropshire Farm Vets will be running an interactive farmskills workshop with the following objectives:

- Identify anatomy of the foot and relation of this to physiological function
- Causes of lameness
The big six
- Appropriate treatment of lameness
- How to safely restrain for foot trimming
- Preventative measures

For further information on booking a flock health plan or a place on the farmskills workshop please phone reception.

Emily

A MASSIVE EARACHE

All dairy clients will have used the product Naxcel®. It is very well liked since it has no milk withdrawal. The downside is where and how it needs to be injected. The injection site is under the skin behind the ear. The medicine has a slow release carrier substance that ensures a long activity but also can leave some tissue reaction. It is for this reason it needs to be injected subcutaneously at the ear base. This is just a reminder that when injecting Naxcel® to make sure you use a new syringe and needle.

Recently I came across an animal with a massive earache after treatment. The abscess was lanced and the animal almost sighed with relief. It's a clear reminder to be prudent with cleanliness and sterility.



Roel

Location for injection



RAISING THE BAR AT WALFORD COLLEGE

Staff

This spring saw Alex Beeston take over management of the dairy herd at Walford and North Shropshire College. Alex quickly established a support team for the college farm, including For Farmers with Lindsay Reynolds responsible for nutrition from March, Cogent's Precision breeding service with PinPoint activity collars and Mark Forsyth their dedicated technician from May and ourselves responsible for veterinary services and consultancy.

At last month's review has highlighted big gains in farm performance, both in milk yield and fertility parameters.

Key Facts comparing the last quarter with the same quarter last year:

- Yield up from 26L/cow/day to 32L/cow/day
- Cows on Robot (freshest 45-50) visit 2.9x per day and yield 38-42L/day
- Submission rate up from 45% in 2014 to 68% in 2015
- Preg Rate up from 7% in 2014 to 20% in 2015 (and 27% for June!)
- No milk fever since March
- Checks at 7 and 14 DIM dramatically reduce interventions at vet routines

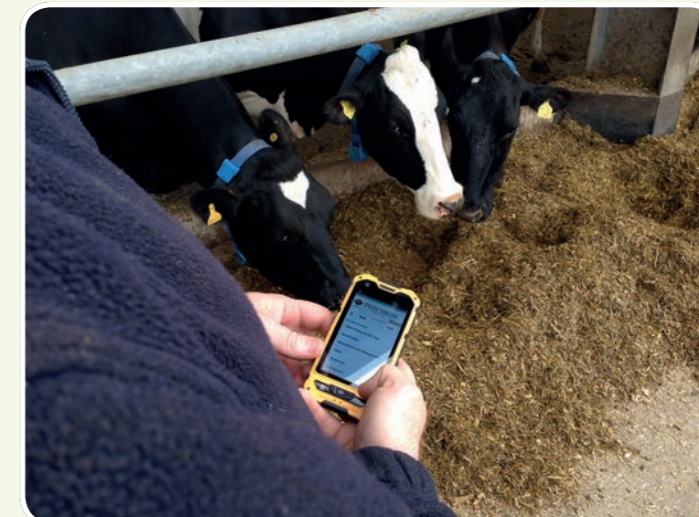
Support team

For Farmers

The two key areas that Alex had to address were dry cow feeding and consistency of the milking cow ration, given the challenges common to any student farm. We had highlighted the fact that cows were mobilising excess body fat in the late dry period by taking bloods for NEFAs (amongst others) which gave Lindsay and Alex evidence to work off when formulating and adjusting rations. The presence of high NEFAs indicates that cows are at risk of ketosis, fatty liver, reduced yields and poor conception rates as NEFAs are directly toxic to developing eggs.

Lindsay has made regular visits to check ration mix quality and cow condition, helping Alex to identify where any problems may be coming in, and rectify them quickly. A joint decision was made to house heifers separately in order to reduce bulling and assist identification of oestrus behaviour. This worked even better than expected, with dry matter intake for heifers within 10% of that for the cows as well as aiding heat detection in both groups.

Dry cows are grazing in the far off period during the summer months, and are on partial DCAB fed by TMR all year for the close to calving dry cows, and throughout the dry period in the winter months.



Alex Beeston using the cogent precision app for accessing cow management data on his smart phone.

Cogent Precision and Pinpoint

Mark Forsyth is the dedicated technician from Cogent for Walford Farm. We work closely with him on agreeing breeding protocols, and review the data together. The voluntary waiting period has been reduced from 60 days down to 42 days this spring, to achieve a shorter interval from calving to conception and ensure the herd is kept closer to peak yield, where milk production is most efficient.

Cogent's Pinpoint collars are provided as part of the precision breeding service. The collars collect data continually, and download every three hours to a remote base station. There is effectively an unlimited data storage within the collar, so should a base station temporarily be out of range or turned off, the data is preserved and recovered at the next opportunity the collar has to connect with the base station.

One of the most versatile features of the precision service is the software that accompanies it. The software is accessible via the farm-wizard app, and links to HUK and to BCMS. From a smart phone app, one can access and edit individual cow cards, for breeding information; births and deaths; treatment history; management events and much more. The app also allows you to generate reports and action lists to prepare for fertility visits, or share via email when a review is made. This makes the process very straight forward, and ensures that as much data as possible is gathered as easily as possible for each cow – invaluable in a working environment where you are constantly under time pressure and staff availability is at a premium.

The next fertility target is to reduce age at first calving from 28 to 24 months. Heifers are now weighed regularly to ensure adequate growth rate, and served from 390Kg.

All this has contributed to a great improvement in fertility performance and in average yield. The next development will be the inclusion of collars that collect steps, lying and rising times and rumination. The data from these will alert you to sick and lame cows earlier, allowing treatments to be pro-active, before the cow exhibits outward signs of disease. This is of great benefit, and we anticipate it reducing the requirement for antibiotics, discarded milk and compromised welfare and performance.



Mark Forsyth head technician at cogent working closely together with Alex Beeston.