



SHROPSHIRE FARM NEWS

SHROPSHIRE FARM VETS LAUNCH

CLARIFIDE®

We are delighted to announce that we now provide the genomics package **CLARIFIDE®** to our farmers. **CLARIFIDE** is a brand new package that combines genomic testing with veterinary consultancy to achieve breeding objectives and herd health goals on farm. Owned by animal health company Zoetis, **CLARIFIDE** is one part of a broad portfolio of animal genetics products and support services in the industry, and currently test 80,000 dairy heifers per month in the US. It is available in the UK as a package for the first time through **RAFT Solutions Ltd**, and only delivered by franchised 14 **XLVet** practices around the country.

CLARIFIDE genomic testing provides information on the production, health, milk quality, fertility, feed efficiency and longevity of the animal and is changing the way dairy producers make management, selection and breeding decisions on farm. Genomic test results are significantly more reliable than traditional parent average values (typically 65% compared to 30%) as they reveal more about the genetic potential an animal actually inherited from its parents. Using Genomic testing a heifer's genetic potential can be revealed early in life and genetic progress can be accelerated with confidence through targeted breeding decisions, enhancing herd profitability.

Genomics has the potential to revolutionise dairy breeding but we mustn't forget that the environment has a huge influence upon how an animal realises genetic performance. By assessing the value and use of genomics on your farm we will take the samples, analyse the data, discuss results and provide independent advice based on a broad knowledge of your farm, its unique set of environmental challenges and herd performance.

Continued overleaf

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Please keep a note of the mobile numbers for the vets should you ever need them.

ALISTAIR MACPHERSON.....	07909 517184
TIM O'SULLIVAN	07909 517479
ROEL DRIESEN.....	07813 833385
JAMES MARSDEN.....	07876 443950
ROD WOOD.....	07809 227426
NATHAN LOEWENSTEIN.....	07815 543546
EMILY DENTON.....	07762 069182
JOHN HEMINGWAY	07496 305412
PABLO NUNEZ.....	07455 882210
PELAYO PEJARES	07522 637322
ROSA FERNANDEZ.....	07719 270835
EVA LEIBIG.....	07874 054328

PRACTICE/DISPENSARY TIMES

We are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
office hours:

Monday – Friday 8:15 – 5.30



From front page

In discussion with you, we can set farm specific breeding objectives and assess the likely response that can be expected from an investment in genomic testing. The CLARIFIDE package also uses UK as well as US figures to enable farmers to benchmark against the national herd.

This is a unique proposition for farmers and an exciting new service ensures that the maximum return from an investment

in genomic testing is realised. By developing a ranking that is bespoke for the individual farm – focus is applied to those areas where an improvement through breeding would help to improve herd performance.

For more information, visit www.clarifide.co.uk or speak to James.

SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY

There is increasing awareness about the importance of selective dry cow therapy in dairy herds. With regulations filtering down from processors and retailers and mounting pressure from the World Health Organisation to reduce antibiotic use in farmed animals, adopting an on farm policy of targeting which cows to treat at drying off has the additional proven benefits to the health of your herd.

Within the healthy udder of a dairy cow there is a complex mixture of bacteria that maintain a healthy environment known as the microbiome. This microbiome is vital in the battle against mastitis pathogens that compete for space when infecting the udder. Coupled with this is a further mixture of the cow's natural proteins and cells used to maintain a healthy udder, commonly we recognise this as the somatic cell count (SCC).

Although most milk contracts pay on quality and as part of this have a SCC threshold above which they penalise producers, assuming the lower the cell count the better would be wrong. It has been demonstrated that cows with a very low cell count can be prone to certain mastitis infections as well as those cows with a very high cell count. Using antibiotics at drying off on cows with a low cell count and uninfected quarters can kill off her natural microbiome making her more susceptible to mastitis in the following lactation. This would indicate to us that there is an optimum cell count range to maintain a healthy udder making it less susceptible to infections.

These findings are the basis of some of the main decision making processes in selecting the most appropriate dry cow therapy at drying off.

The key aim of a dry cow therapy is to aid in the cure of any current infection and also to minimise the potential of any new infections originating in the dry period. As the majority of causes of mastitis are bacterial, we tend to break down dry cow therapy into using either a teat sealant alone or a teat sealant with an antibiotic tube.

To make the most appropriate decision on which protocol to use for each individual cow, ideally monthly cell count and clinical mastitis information should be known but the protocol can be tailored to your system. As a rule of thumb it is recommended that the criteria for the use of a teat sealant alone should be that that animal has not had a clinical case of mastitis in the 3 months pre drying off and that her SCC has been below a set threshold for your herd for the last 3 months. The SCC threshold used will be specific to each individual herd, depending on the average SCC of the herd but is usually about 200,000 cells in cows and 150,000 cells in heifers. Your routine vet will be able to advise you on the most appropriate SCC threshold and selective dry cow therapy protocol for your herd.

Using this herd protocol approach to make a decision on individuals at drying off can have several benefits:

- Reduce herd mastitis incidence
- Reduce antibiotic use in your herd
- Responsible use of antibiotics in your herd
- Reduce the cost of drying off

Sean



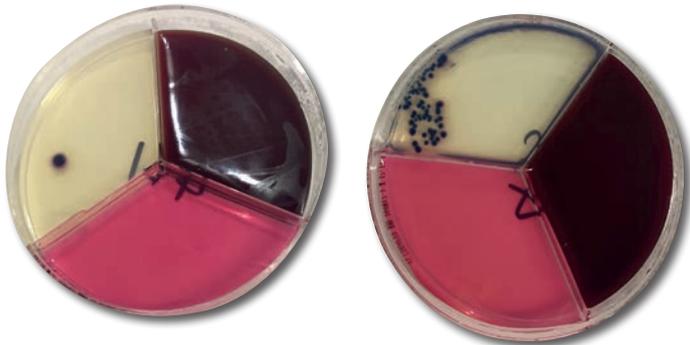


Vetorapid

We have a new diagnostic product to aid in the diagnosis of mastitis. This is a special agar plate similar to those used in labs but this can be done in-house (or on your farm if you buy the kit) and we are getting results within 12-24 hours. This is obviously a huge time saver and the whole purpose is to help inform you as to the cause and therefore possible treatment options.

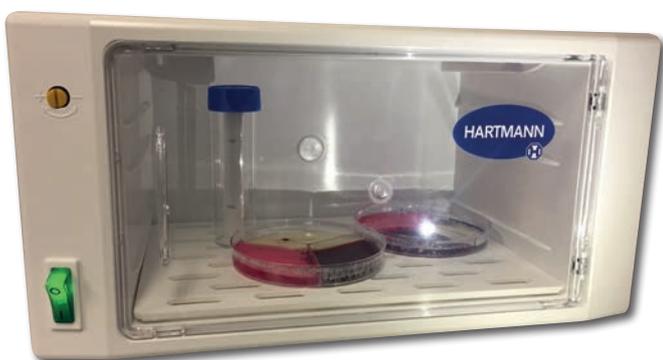
The plate is divided into three coloured sections. Each section is optimised to grow either E coli, Staphs or Streps; these being the commonest mastitis causing organisms. A chart aids diagnosis allowing an informed decision whether to use antibiotics, or not.

For example, on the basis that most E coli mastitis cases self-cure (from a bacteriology perspective), antibiotics are often not required, but you need to know which bug you have – we are not talking about toxic E coli here! Treatment options in this case might involve just pain relief and Oxytocin but there are obviously many possibilities and treatment options and they need to be discussed with your routine vet so a protocol can be worked out that is appropriate to you.



There is no doubt that this sort of aid is in the future of dairying, and probably near future. With some training, I have no doubt that some farmers will want this facility at their own farm. An incubator that can maintain temperatures (accurately!) at around 37 degrees is a pre-requisite, as are the plates themselves. The plates do not have a long shelf life so we will not be stocking large numbers until we see how these go. Feel free to ask one of the vets about this.

The pictures here show the plates in an incubator, and a couple of plates that have grown up E coli (in this case) in approx. 16 hours.



Medicine Matters

Tetroxy LA

For various supply reasons, we are transferring our long acting use of Alamycin LA to "Tetroxy Vet". "Tetroxy Vet" is exactly the same as Alamycin LA in terms of use, dose and withholding periods. This change, which will take place immediately, also means we can maintain the supply and the price for at least another year.



Bovigen Scour

For a long time we have used the Rotavec vaccine, and we will continue to do so as it is highly effective in boosting colostrum to protect the new born calf – see last month's newsletter for a reminder about colostrum.

As an early notice, there may finally now be a suitable quality alternate vaccine for boosting COWS. Bovigen Scour is a relatively new vaccine which covers the same bugs as Rotavec vaccine – Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E coli K99. Standard dose is two doses usually around 7 and 4 weeks pre-calving.

So what, Rotavec is just one dose. Yes it is. The beauty of Bovigen is that a single dose has been proven to sufficiently boost cows that have already had a dose of Rotavec in previous years, and we anticipate that Bovigen will be a couple of pounds a dose cheaper.

So, ALWAYS use ROTAVEC on HEIFERS and now you have the choice to use a good vaccine that will do the same job cheaper in cows.

The big message however is that it doesn't matter how cheap (or expensive) a product is, it has to be used correctly, and in this case combined with good colostrum management to get the greatest benefit.



FARM WALK AT DRENEWYDD

A very big thank you to John Wigley at Drenewydd Farm, Whittington, for hosting our farm walk earlier in October. We had a good turnout and hopefully everyone enjoyed the day.



James spoke about the economic value of good breeding programmes, Sean spoke about Transition Cow Management, Nathan spoke about Johnes and the ReMAP service and Alistair spoke about calf management.

Ed Potter provided a delicious cottage pie and cakes (all of which went!).

CLIENT MEETING

Tuesday November 15th at Arscott Golf Club

We are holding a farmer meeting to talk about Calf Pneumonia and a new vaccine, and Herd Health Monitor, a tool that monitors disease on your farm and assists in forming a suitable health plan based on your real numbers. In these times, farm efficiency is more important than ever, and investing in health is always the cheaper option.

We will aim to have a few drinks from 7pm, start the meeting at 7.30 and have food at/around 8.30-8.45.

Please phone or email the office to confirm your place.

TB TESTING AROUND CHRISTMAS

Please be aware that we have limited availability for TB tests in the week either side of Christmas. Although this is still seven weeks away (when you read this), the time will go remarkably quickly and if you are intending/have to test around that period, **please book early**.

TB numbers for September

OK, it couldn't last for ever...

The total number of tests carried out were 49.

The total number of animals tested came to 6,395.

There were 2 inconclusive and 25 reactors.

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