



# SHROPSHIRE FARM NEWS



## Data...

... can be boring, but with the right interface it can tell you a lot about your farm. Gathering numbers as a box ticking exercise is a waste of time. The key is to make the info we collect work for us.

Already most of us are gathering data all the time, done by yourselves or others.

### The main areas are:

- Milk – milk recording
- Fertility – AI, scanning/ PD's, RMS
- Foot health – mobility scoring, routine foot trim, digi scoring
- Nutrition – BCS, fertility blood sampling

As an interface for collecting data and presenting them in a usable format we use **VetIMPRESS**. Some of you may have seen it in action with Simeon, our Hoof Care foot trimmer or with one of the vets' routine fertility visit.

The system has a farm version called **MyFarmIMPRESS** which is available to all our clients FREE OF CHARGE.

### MyFarmIMPRESS consists of 2 parts:

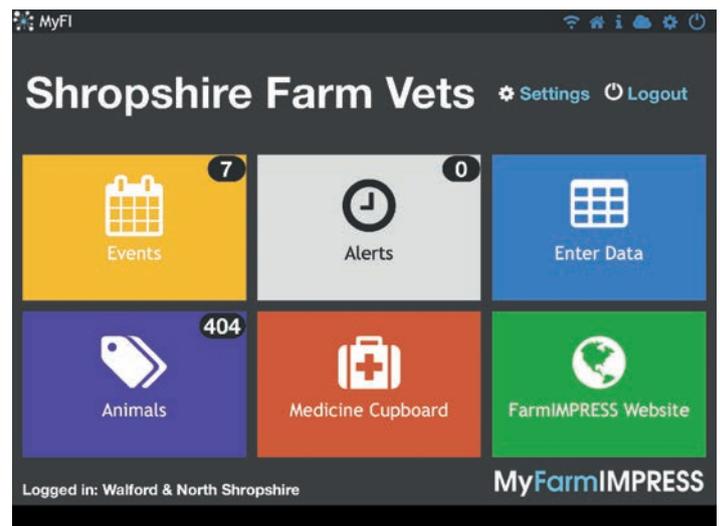
1. The app that is mainly used for collecting the data. This is available from iTunes or Google play.
2. The website which is the best way to see and analyse the data.



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To get started you need to download and install the app to your device of choice be it phone or tablet. Then you'll need to contact the office to set up a user name and password and you are ready to go.



### In the entry dashboard you'll find the following:

- **Events:** this is where you can schedule data entry times (diary)
- **Alerts:** here you can set yourself reminders (example: remove cidr)
- **Enter data:** this is the main area where all the data input happens.
- **Animals:** this area contains all the data stored per animal.
- **Medicine cupboard:** here you can store your medicine info
- **Website:** access to the FarmIMPRESS website. (Best accessed from a PC.)

Shropshire Farm Vets

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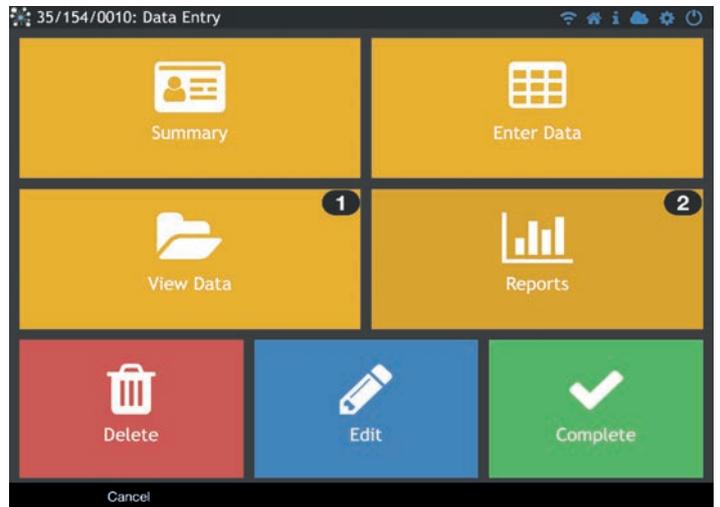
T: 01743 860 920 F: 01743 861 934 E: farm@shropshirefarmvets.com W: www.shropshirefarmvets.com

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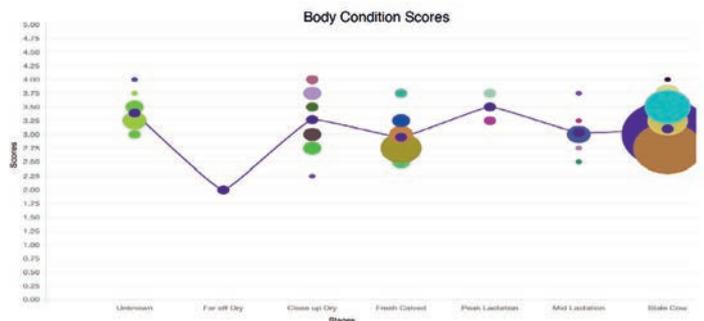
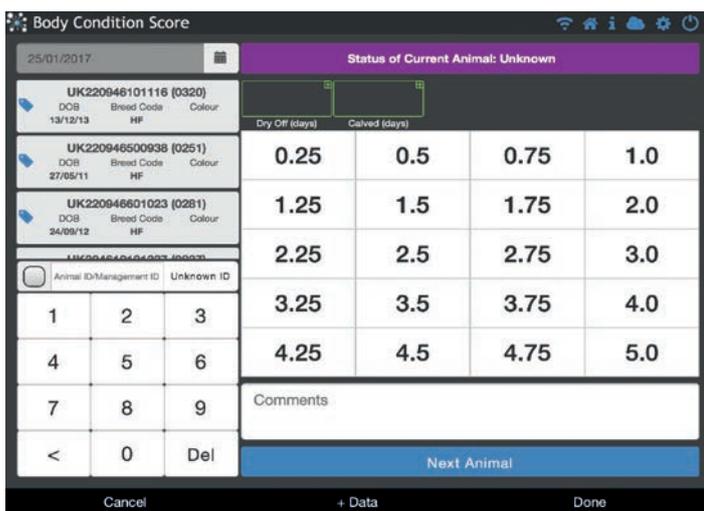


Not to be too overwhelming from the start we'll dip in to an area's that you might want to access on your first go. Let's start with enter data, an area with a heap of choices. Followed by BCS (Body condition scoring).

This will bring up the following screen where you can see the data or a graphic representation of your work.



In Reports you will find the following graph:



To finish and upload all to the website click "Complete".

**BEWARE**  
Once you've completed, the data will only be accessible through the website and not through the app!

To enter the BCS for an animal you enter the ear tag number or the management number (Freeze brand, neck collar) on the left and choose the correct animal from the list above. (This will turn the chosen one blue)

Followed by choosing the BCS and "Next Animal". Repeat this until all the animals you want to score are done and finish with the "Done" button, bottom right.

All the other areas work on a similar structure so if you feel more confident you can have a go at them.



**This leaves me to wish you good luck so you can boldly go where no one has gone before!**

## SCHMALLEMBERG

Just a quick note to remind clients that Schmallerberg hasn't gone away, in fact we have probably seen more effects from Schmallerberg over the last few months than through the summer.

There are many signs but they can be quite subtle to fierce in adults including fever, reduced milk yield, inappetence, loss of body condition and, diarrhoea. Outbreaks of disease have lasted 2-3 weeks, with individual affected animals recovering over several days. Commonly in new-born stock, calves but

especially lambs, we have seen include bent limbs and fixed joints, brain deformities and marked damage to the spinal cord. Hard flexion of the joints and /or twisting of the body are also common birth defects.

Care should be taken in any animal giving birth but especially if there appears to be any form of twist in the foetus. Excessive force will only create more problems so a caeser may well be the best/only option.

Awareness is everything.

Currently there is no vaccine as they were all removed from UK stocks last year.



## WHO IS GOING TO WORK IN A MASK?

We have been required to send one of our vets over to Lincolnshire to help APHA in some Avian Flu outbreaks. In addition to being contracted to provide TB testing for our clients as well as quite a few non-clinical clients, (their own vets refused the contract), we also have to provide personnel to help out in disease emergency incidents when asked. Happily this is the first time this has happened, but Nathan, along with five other private vets from the Midlands has spent the last few days in Lincolnshire monitoring and swabbing birds in suspect avian flu outbreaks. At time of writing, he has just come back to be replaced by Rod, who will be there himself for a few more days. We hope that this might be it and that APHA feel that the situation is under control over there, but with cases in Lincolnshire, Carmarthenshire and suspects in Yorkshire and Lancashire (at time of writing), it is a disease that may continue and is worrying for all those with poultry. For the government latest, look at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-bird-flu-in-winter-2016-to-2017>

## FIRST AID COURSES

We will be organising a few First Aid courses over the next couple of months. Whilst we do not yet have any dates organised, take this as early notice that if you wish to register interest either for yourself or your staff, please contact the office with name and potential numbers.



## MEDS CORNER

### SHEEP – FOOTROT

Sheep don't have many licensed products, but now there is a new one. Many might be familiar with Draxxin, one of the newer antibiotics that has successfully been used to treat pneumonia in cattle. This antibiotic is now licensed to treat early footrot and it is very good. In the past we have used Mictoil (vet administered only) and latterly Zactran, but since Draxxin is licensed, it should be used ahead of the others. Of course there are many ways to control footrot and ideally you wouldn't get to the stage where flock injections are necessary, but it is good to know that there is an alternate treatment.

One aspect to remember, the dose rate is 1 ml per 40Kg as in cattle, but sheep should be injected **intra-muscularly in the neck**, and not sub-cut as in cattle. The withdrawal period for sheep is just 16 days.

### SHEEP – EWE-GO

We tried this product last year and I have to say it was pretty successful. Ewe-Go is a drench containing propylene glycol with various salts and is designed to give a poorly ewe a real boost to her energy and metabolism. It comes in 1 litre pots and the dose rate is 100ml, repeat in 8 hours if necessary. Anyone with late pregnant or early lactating sheep would be well advised to consider its use.

### CALVES BEING FED MILK?

It sounds obvious, but up the level of feeding on cold days as calves will burn off more energy keeping warm. Calf feed rates are usually quoted for 15 degrees ambient temperature. As a rough rule of thumb, increase the feed by approx. 5% for every degree above or below 15 degrees in order to maintain growth rates.

## CONTACTS DETAILS

Thank you to everyone who has provided up to date contact details. If you haven't yet contacted us with up to date details, please can you do so!

Once ready, these details will be transferred across into our new management system which I hope will be live over the next few months. There have been a lot of clients who have requested invoicing by email, which will happen, but cannot before we have the new system. In the meantime, please bear with us, and we will surely keep sending you a paper version.

# SHEEP LAMENESS

Following on from our launch of XL sheep lameness in late 2015, there have been requests for another sheep lameness course. Lameness is a significant welfare issue and costs the industry millions every year. Footrot alone is estimated to cost £10/ewe in the UK flock per year (AHDB Focus on lameness handout, 2016). Plus at vital times such as lambing, lame sheep do not spend as much time eating which means they lose condition, have less milk and produce weaker lambs resulting in a loss of productivity.

FAWC proposed that the national flock should have achieved less than 5% lameness by 2016 and less than 2% lameness by 2021. This when combined with cross-compliance regulations requiring producers to maintain prevalence levels at less than 5% provides serious food for thought. If you believe your figures to be higher than 5% the lameness course will help you to target why this might be and how <5% lameness can be achieved.

The course consists of a practical session and a theory session and is based around using the five point plan. It looks at basic anatomy of the sheep foot, the major causes of lameness and how to identify them, treatment, appropriate handling and most importantly how to prevent lameness problems in the first place. The practical session includes lesion identification and a practice at trimming.

**Running for approximately three hours, the course will be held at Shropshire Farm Vets at 2pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March at a cost of £50/delegate**

*To avoid disappointment (as spaces will be limited), please contact the office on:*

**01743 860920**

*to secure your place*

## LAMBING COURSE

*Want to refresh your memory? Need a confidence boost?*

Come join us at:

9am on Saturday 11th February  
@ Shropshire Farm Vets

### We will be covering:

- Key factors for a successful lambing season
- Correct management during the pre-lambing period, and how to achieve it
- The lambing process including when and how to intervene, if necessary
- Post-lambing care
- Care of healthy, sick, orphaned and hypothermic lambs
- Common health disorders in sheep and lambs, and what to do if you see them

### Plus practical workshop covering:

- Lambing practice using 'Lambulator' our lambing simulator
- Stomach tubing, different types of injection technique including intra-peritoneal (intra-abdominal glucose)



## TB Update for December 16

The total number of tests carried out were 43.  
The total number of animals tested were 11,155.  
There were 2 inconclusives and 16 reactors  
The average sized TB test has nearly doubled in the last couple of months and we continue on relentlessly.

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