



SHROPSHIRE FARM NEWS

Pneumonia Vaccination

Pneumonia continues to be the biggest killer of youngstock each and every winter. The type of challenge will vary from farm to farm depending on the age of stock, the quality of the housing and where the stock are coming from. Over the years we have worked with farmers using all sorts of systems and in general there are always ways to minimise the risk of pneumonia on farm. Many of the measures having very little to do with medicines such as managing ventilation, isolating sick animals and keeping cattle dry sheltered and at a comfortable temperature.

We have a large range of vaccines available that can help. However there is not a single vaccine that covers all strains of pneumonia and it is worth taking time to speak to one of us about a regime that will work for you.

Also think about what medicines might be appropriate to have on the shelf if you need to treat an animal with pneumonia. Calves and even big cattle can go from healthy to dead very quickly with pneumonia so you can greatly reduce the risk of death or serious lung damage by getting the treatments in as soon as you see symptoms of pneumonia. Have some medicine on the shelf now! Many pneumonia cases will be a mixture of viral and bacterial agents and these will need a two pronged approach- basically you will need anti-inflammatories and antibiotics in most cases. **Viruses don't respond to antibiotics so if you rely on antibiotics alone you are not treating the animal at all!!**

IN THIS ISSUE: October 2017

- Pneumonia Vaccination
- SFV Changes
- Look Up
- Apples
- TB Tests
- Horizon Dairy Vets
- Johnes Disease

Equally a very recent large scale trial showed that a much higher proportion of calves with high temperatures need retreatment if they only had anti-inflammatories versus calves that had anti inflammatories and antibiotics. So either use a product that has antibiotics and anti inflammatory ingredients (e.g Resflor or Hexasol La) or use two separate products such as Metacam and either Norokem or Draxxin. Speak to a vet to ensure you use the best choice for your circumstance.

Don't forget Pneumonia in sheep especially store lambs!

Just like in cattle we see unacceptably high numbers of deaths due to "pasturella" pneumonia every year. Heptavac P is an excellent vaccine if used correctly but it does need two doses. Make sure you get these jabs in now to cover the risk period ahead and avoid the real disappointment of finding dead lambs just after you bought them or maybe worse just before they are ready to go.



SFV Changes...

Autumn is well and truly here, the maize wagons are rolling and the nights are drawing in. It's a time of change here at Shropshire Farm Vets too as we say goodbye to Emily after 4 years of sterling work and welcome two new vets to the team, Mihail (Michael if it's easier) who will be joining the TB team and Jo who will be joining the clinical team at the end of October. It has been particularly satisfying to see Emily's progress with us since she started with us as a student seeing practice and subsequently joined us as a new graduate four years ago. In that time (as well as finding time to find a man and get married!!!) she has developed an excellent surgical technique and a keen clinical judgement. This has allowed her to become the first port of call for a good number of our clients as well as developing with great success some particular aspects of the practice, especially the sheep and smallholder sectors. We are sure she will have great success in the next part of her career in Derbyshire and we wish her well.

Shropshire Farm Vets

Hanwood Office: Unit 3, The Depot, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 8NY T: 01743 860 920 F: 01743 861 934

Whittington Office: Drenewydd Farm, Whittington, Shropshire SY11 4NB T: 01691 898 822

E: farm@shropshirefarmvets.com W: www.shropshirefarmvets.com

Company Reg No 6497266. VAT Reg No 817914608

XLvets
Excellence In Practice

Look Up

My time at work over the last 18 months or so has developed from being a purely clinical vet into running the business as well as spending more time on XL Farmcare duties (TB). However as part of an occasional series in what people get up to beyond work, I have been asked by a few clients to explain what possesses me to sit in a roofless shed taking pictures of the sky on clear nights.

Sometimes when nothing works I wish I knew, but ultimately it is just plain fascination and that it has absolutely nothing to do with animals. Most people see stars as twinkling dots and don't necessarily look beyond it being cold. I see galaxies, nebulae, comets and the sheer vastness of what is around us. That, and the history of discovery, and what it is now possible for even a rank amateur to achieve in his back garden.

Taking pictures of any deep sky objects (ie something not in our solar system) involves framing it with a telescope, tracking the object as it appears to move across the sky, maintaining focus as temperatures drop and lots of time and patience.

Since most deep sky objects are very faint, and not very visible to our eyes, getting a successful picture involves taking multiple exposures of 5–30 minutes each. Usually, many hours' worth of these images are stacked in a computer and then processed into the final images, some of which are here. I now use a mono camera, and apply different filters for different colours, though some people use standard DSLR camera with amazing results.

IC1396 is more commonly known as the Elephant's Trunk. This is a total of 22 hours exposure taken over four nights and is taken in Hydrogen and Oxygen with

artificial colours applied. This is a star forming region with an accumulation of gas and dust and is approx. 2400 light years distant.

M13, or the Great Globular Cluster in Hercules, is a cluster of around 300,000 stars on the edge of the Milky Way, some 22,000 light years distant and approx. 145 light years diameter. This picture is around 4 hours exposure.

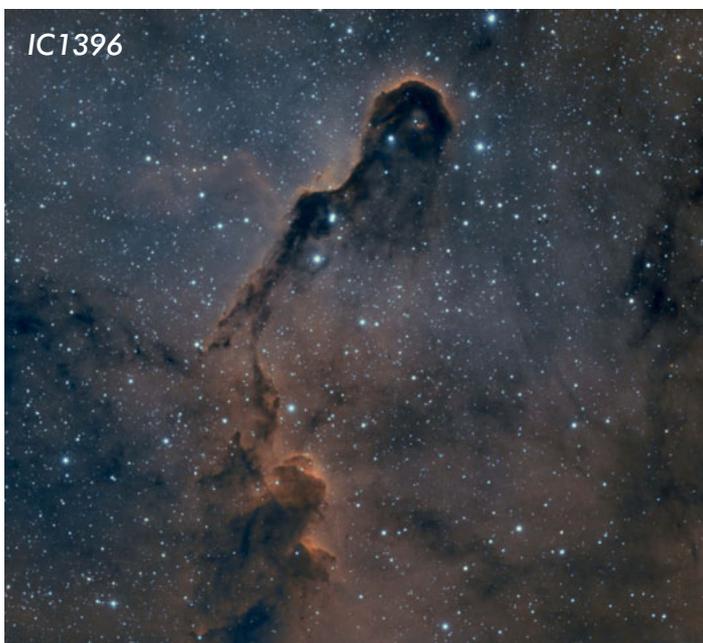
Andromeda (M31) is our closest neighbouring galaxy at 2.5 million light years distance. This is one of my first images from around four years ago. This version is hopefully something like what it really looks like as this galaxy is full of dust, and 400 billion stars! This can be seen with the naked eye as a fluffy smudge, but this picture is around 18 hours exposure.

Merope is one of the main stars of The Pleiades, another naked eye object that appears as a bright smudge to the right of Orion. This is approx. 440 light years distant. These are very "young" stars, very hot and very blue. This is 6 hours exposure

The Rosette Nebula, or NGC2244 is coming back into view as the nights lengthen. If you hold your fist at arm's length just to the left of Orion's Belt (everyone knows Orion!), the Rosette lives there. Again, this is taken in Hydrogen and Oxygen with artificial colours applied. This is about 5000 light years distant and 130 light years in diameter. This is a big star forming region of our galaxy and took 18 hours exposure.

NGC7129 is my latest picture acquired in September with over 14 hours of exposure. It is a new star forming area with many hot blue stars creating a reflection nebula in the surrounding dust. It is around 3500 light years distant and a very violent place to be.

Alistair





As its Autumn... from farm orchards back to farmers

We have been very grateful this last couple of years to have been able to collect lots of apples from our clients to help us make our Staggers and ToeCurler ciders for our show stands at the Shropshire show and Oswestry and Minsterley shows. These have been a big hit and we hope many of you have had a chance to enjoy them this year (no liability accepted for any headaches or poor decisions taken as a result!!). For those of you who have old orchards or neglected apple trees around the farm we would be really grateful if you have any apples in need of a good home that you can remember us. Roel, our resident cider expert tells me that eaters and crab apples make the best cider but any offers gratefully accepted.



TB Tests

We know that having a TB test can be a challenging couple of days, but putting off those days is only making life more difficult.

This year we have more farms than ever under restrictions which means that these clients are having short interval tests every 60 days and as a result, our diary is filling faster than ever before.

When you receive your test notification window, please phone us as soon as possible so we can arrange your test. Likewise, when your name appears on our computer system, we will also start phoning you. This will give us all the best chance of finding a mutual date and time.

We always try and accommodate clients and nobody wants to be in the situation where a farm is put under restrictions. However, this is becoming a real risk if a test is not booked in until late as we simply could be full.

Thank you for your understanding.

Also, as a final note, it is not the test that has to be completed by the end of your test window, *but the paperwork and processing of the test*. In other words, to be safe, you should aim to have the test completed at least five days before the test window closes.

In August, we did 43 tests totalling 4762 head. There were 22 reactors and 0 inconclusives.

Horizon Dairy Vets

The Dairy Day at Telford saw the announcement that there is to be a new vet practice – Horizon Dairy Vets – setting up in the area. Horizon has been set up by Dave Gilbert and Dan Humphries who recently left a large farm practice in the region as they wanted to try some of their own ideas and become their own boss. However there are an awful lot of things that need to happen behind the scenes to set up a practice and supply veterinary goods and services legally and ethically. You may be interested to hear that Shropshire Farm Vets are working collaboratively with Dave and Dan to help them get off the ground and to help provide some logistical support including some help with TB testing etc. We see working together as being mutually beneficial and hopefully there will be a good flow of ideas in both directions.

We wish them well with their new venture into the future.

Johnes Disease – Where are we going and how do we make things better?

With the launch of Phase 2 of the National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP) in the spring, and milk buyers starting to add Johnes management requirements to their contracts; now is a great time to make sure that you are doing as much as possible to help protect your herd from this debilitating disease. With this in mind, we will be holding a Johnes discussion meeting, at the **Four Crosses, Bicton, SY3 8EF** on **Tuesday 10th October 2017**, meet at **7pm for a 7.30pm start**, followed by food.

We will be discussing the disease, it's implications and the key things that YOU can do to try and MINIMISE it's effects on farm. This will

be a great opportunity to hear what other farms have done, what has worked well and what could be improved on. Johnes reduction and control is a long slow process, but the sooner you start, the sooner you will begin to see results. While there has been a lot of press about the threat of Johnes in the dairy industry, it shouldn't be forgotten that this is also a disease of concern for beef and sheep producers.

If you are interested in attending then please contact the practice on 01743 860920 to let us know.

Nathan

Find us on social media



www.facebook.com/ShropshireFarmVets
www.twitter.com/ShropFarmVets

Shropshire Farm Vets

Hanwood Office: Unit 3, The Depot, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 8NY T: 01743 860 920 F: 01743 861 934

Whittington Office: Drenewydd Farm, Whittington, Shropshire SY11 4NB T: 01691 898 822

E: farm@shropshirefarmvets.com W: www.shropshirefarmvets.com

Company Reg No 6497266. VAT Reg No 817914608

XLvets
Excellence In Practice