FriarsMoor Livestock Health

Newsletter

December 2024

World Anitibiotic Awareness Week
by Helen Rogers, VetMB MA MRCVS DBR

November culminated in World Antibiotic Awareness Week, a global campaign that is celebrated annually to improve awareness and understanding of anti-microbial resistance (AMR) and encourage best practice among the public.

Since 2016, we have been working alongside our farmers to ensure that medicines are being prescribed and used responsibly. The changes across all parts of the practice, both within the team and on farm have been immense and it's definitely worth giving yourself a pat on the back! These reductions would not have been possible without the engagement and good client relations that we have on farm. I was wryly smiling to myself whilst writing this article that some of our team will never have even seen a pack of Cobactan tubes or know what a box of Marbocyl looks like!

Changes in behaviour have been backed up with data analysis and investment on farm, team training, re-training and a real motivation to make a difference and reduce the risk of antibiotics used on farm resulting in resistance in bacteria which can cause disease in humans. There has been an increased use of pain relief and fluid therapy, alongside earlier detection of disease and improvements in resilience and immune status through, for example, increased volumes of milk fed to calves and better colostrum management. Investments in technology which monitor cattle health traits such as rumination and activity will continue to help us reduce our use of antibiotics.

The current RUMA target set in 2020 was to reduce the mg/PCU levels across the national herd by 15%, from 21mg/PCU to 17.9mg/PCU. This reduction was targeted to occur over four years. As you can see, data from our cattle dairy farms shows that we are well below target (and were even in 2020!) and we should all be really proud of this.

Data collation for sheep flocks and beef herds remains more challenging and we will continue to work with the industry to make this a smoother and less clunky process.

Further changes to prescribing rules, and milk/meat withdrawals are in the process of being announced by the VMD, so watch this space as we wait for clarification on these changes.

Wishing you all a trouble free and Merry Christmas and a peaceful, dry and cold New Year! We hope you all manage to enjoy some well-earned time with friends and family and look forward to working with you in 2025.

Staff News!

We sadly say goodbye to Alex this month. We would like to thank him for all his hard work & commitment and we wish him every success for the future.

FriarsMoor Livestock Health

In collaboration with GVS

Dairy Sheep & Goat Conference

27th & 28th January 2025

Scan the QR code for our secure online registration to the Dairy Sheep & Goat Conference.

Xmas Opening Times

XMAS EVE	8.00-12.00
XMAS DAY	CLOSED
BOXING DAY	CLOSED
FRI 27TH DEC	8.00-17.30 CLOSWORTH CLOSED
SAT 28TH DEC	8.30-12.00
NEW YEARS EVE	8.00-17.30
NEW YEARS DAY	CLOSED

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

10 DEC

FIRST AID AT WORK

FMLH West Stour Meeting Room

Level 3 First Aid Training Course covering; The roles and responsibilities of an emergency first-aider, assessing an incident, managing an unresponsive casualty, CPR & defib, recovery position, choking, seizures, shock, wounds and bleeding, minor injuries, cuts, grazes & bruises, minor burns and scalds.

£85 per person

10 DEC

PRE CALVING DISCUSSION

Meeting room at Park Corner Farm, Mere BA12 6AH. 11am to 1.30pm

Topics including:

- Dry cow nutrition for this winter
- 2024 colostrum transfer and growth rate results
- Advances in Cryptosporidium control
- Salmonella status of herds

11 DEC

MILKSURE

MilkSure training improves the professionalism around medicine use on dairy farms and drives higher standards. This is to avoid medicine residues and to help reduce antibiotic resistance.

Time: 11am

Cost: £75

MilkSure✓

24 JAN

HEIFER WASTAGE

Minimising heifer wastage in the dairy herd

A joint meeting with Friars Moor and Shepton Youngstock groups.

11am

28 JAN

FIRST AID AT WORK

9am to 4.30pm

FMLH West Stour Meeting Room

£85

4 FEB

FIRST AID AT WORK

9am to 4.30pm

FMLH West Stour Meeting Room

£85

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF OUR COURSES, PLEASE CALL THE FARM OFFICE ON 01258 472314