

Newsletter September 2010

South West TB Farm Advisory Service

The advent of annual TB testing has resulted in many more farms suffering TB restrictions, with no movement of bovine stock on or off farms, except direct to slaughter. These restrictions can lead to many problems including overcrowding, underfeeding, increased disease risks and financial difficulties.

The TB Advisory Group has been created to provide free bespoke advice to farmers and vets on TB issues. The advisors are specially trained and practical people to help you work through these difficult issues where advice from us or Defra is lacking.

I met recently with our local advisor, Sophie Jones, she assures me that she will be able to help find alternative outlets for stock restricted on farm to reduce the risks of over crowding. She may be able to help with paperwork related to funding applications and possible mediate between you and Defra where problems arise. This is a free confidential service and I recommend that you make use of it if the need arises.

Contact Sophie Jones, Tel: 01392 440706, Fax: 01392 440707, Website: www.southwest-tbadvice.co.uk

JHC

Staff News

Congratulations to Jon and Holly on the birth of their daughter Evelyn on 19 August 2010. Both mum and baby are doing very well and so is Jon - remarkably enough!

We would like to wish one of our nurses Clare Armstrong best wishes on her trip to Sri Lanka to do some voluntary work in an animal sanctuary. She will be gone for a month whilst she is doing this work and we will welcome her back at the end of the year.

Mastitis Control

Bob has just been on a course run by DairyCo to be trained in the new mastitis control plan, which has been developed in conjunction with a number of veterinary experts in the field and DairyCo. It consists of a combination of an analysis of historical farm data using computer software to show patterns of disease on an individual farm unit and also a questionnaire which looks at all aspects of management on a farm and compares the results of this questionnaire with what is considered to be best practice.

From the diagnosis of the type of pattern of mastitis on a unit and the answers to the questionnaire a number of recommendations can be made whereby one can target control measures to produce the maximum effect in reducing mastitis and cell counts on farm. It has been shown that if 2/3 of the recommendations are acted upon then the average



reduction in mastitis rates is 30%, thus this is a very cost effective way of approaching mastitis on farm.

For more information have a chat with Bob.

Drug Production Problems

At the moment there seems to be a manufacturing problems with a number of products; most notably Metricure, Toxovax and Enzovax. This is on top of long standing production problems that have been associated with products such as Leo Yellow. We are looking for alternatives to treat animals. We will try to find alternatives if they exist, or recommend other products if there are no alternative. This may require using some products in a slightly different way, which may have impacts upon milk and meat withdrawal times. We will let you know if we need to use them on farm. BOB