

# Coombefield Veterinary Hospital

## Dairy Newsletter

### January 2015

2014 has been the worst year for TB reactors for our area. The increased testing required and the movement restrictions imposed as you know causes huge impacts on daily life. Our heart goes out to all those who have been affected and we always aim to work with you to try to get through the testing as pain free as possible. My worst experience of TB this year was in a dairy herd where I saw a long race full of beautiful homebred heifers all with bottom lumps the size of tennis balls, nine in-calf heifers all ready to drop, now all reactors to be shot. This story is not unusual but one I will always remember.

With the change in weather from wet to hot and dry this September the grass grew quickly and hypo-magnesium became a problem on several farms. Some beef cows were found dead in the fields whilst others were fitting. Normally seen in the spring this was unusual to see so many in Autumn. The mild winter has caused, as expected, a lot of pneumonia. Thankfully a lot of calf housing has been altered to allow more ventilation and the use of calf hutches has helped reduce overstocking. The mild weather has also meant an unusually high worm burden for both cattle and sheep. Our highest faecal egg count so far this year was in a 9 month old lamb, which had a surprisingly good body condition score, was 9,000 eggs per gram! Normally over 200 is considered significant.

This year we have welcomed Roger and Will to the Farm team and they have really got stuck in. In November, Lucy returned from maternity leave and it's been great to have her back. Emma will be going on maternity leave in February. Fiona Jones has joined the Reception team, her background is in animal health medicines and has recently moved back to Devon from Shropshire.

Here's to a healthy, prosperous New Year and let's hope the milk price will stop falling and start to go back up.



#### Farm Department

and

#### Equine Clinic

Please call **01297 630515**

Email [farm@axvets.co.uk](mailto:farm@axvets.co.uk)

This number is also available from 8.00am to 5pm for booking visits, ordering drugs, etc.

For out of hours (5pm to 8.00am) please call **01297 630500**.

#### FARM INFO

**FARM LINE 01297 630515**

Medicines can be ordered via email

Email: [farm@axvets.co.uk](mailto:farm@axvets.co.uk)

#### Normal Office Hours

|           |                    |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Monday    | 8.00 am – 5.00 pm  |
| Tuesday   | 8.00 am – 5.00 pm  |
| Wednesday | 8.00 am – 5.00 pm  |
| Thursday  | 8.00 am – 5.00 pm  |
| Friday    | 8.00 am – 5.00 pm  |
| Saturday  | 10.00 am – 1.00 pm |
| Sunday    | Emergencies Only   |

**IN AN EMERGENCY RING**  
**01297 630500**

## ***Safe and Responsible Use of Medicines Workshop***

There is a lot of media attention on antibiotic resistance and over use of medicines in food producing animals.

Should farmers and vets be concerned? **We think so!**

We are therefore running a workshop all to do with veterinary medicines and there use. Do you want to know more about how antibiotics work and when best to use them?

Using medicines appropriately will ensure you achieve better clinical outcomes, avoid residues and reduce cost through misuse and overuse. If you are interested please let us know as spaces will be limited.

The date of the workshop will be **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015**. The start time will be 12pm, finishing at approximately 3pm.

There will be a nominal fee of £25 per trainee to include materials, lunch and an attendance certificate.

