



Summer 2025 Newsletter

Stay Vigilant for Summer Mastitis



Image taken from NADIS 'Summer Mastitis in Cattle' <https://nadis.org.uk/disease-a-z/cattle/summer-mastitis-in-cattle/>

While the recent hot weather has been welcomed by some, it has also brought with it some seasonal challenges - most notably, an increase in fly activity and conditions such as summer mastitis.

This condition most commonly affects dry cows but can also occur in heifers and beef cattle and has even been reported in young calves. It is caused by a complex bacterial infection, primarily involving *Trueperella pyogenes*, and typically affects the non-lactating udder. The disease is spread during the summer months by the sheep head fly (*Hydrotaea irritans*), which transmits bacteria through the open teat canal. If not noticed and treated quickly, it can lead to severe udder damage, loss of a quarter, abortion or even death in severe cases.

Signs to look out for:

- Swelling or heat in the mammary gland or teats
- Kicking at or licking the udder
- Isolation from the rest of the herd
- Lameness due to pain and swelling of the mammary gland
- Reduced appetite

Treatment:

Treatment success depends on how quickly the condition is identified and managed.

- Injectable antibiotics +/- intramammary antibiotic tubes
- Anti-inflammatories
- Oral or intravenous fluids, depending on severity
- Frequent stripping of the affected quarter (this should be discarded appropriately to avoid being a source of further infection)

How to reduce the risk:

Once infected the quarter is unlikely to recover, therefore prevention is key

- Avoid grazing dry cows in fly-prone areas, especially fields near woods or watercourses
- Stay on top of pour-on insecticides and insecticide ear tags
- Consider the use of teat sealants on dry cows and heifers
- House high risk animals, such as those with teat damage
- Check stock daily for any signs of illness

Celebrating 10 Years of Service!

This week we celebrated Alex's 10-year anniversary with us. Alex joined as a new grad in 2015 and has been a valued member of the team ever since. Thank you, Alex, for all your hard work and the laughs over the past decade. We look forward to what the next 10 years will bring!



Are You Struggling With Ketosis?

Maintaining optimal health in high-yielding dairy cows during early lactation is essential for productivity, fertility, and long-term profitability. To help support your cows during this critical transition period, we are now stocking Ketanor Boluses, a product specially developed to prevent and manage ketosis in dairy cows.

Key benefits:

- Helps restore energy balance, reducing the risk of ketosis
- Supports liver function and energy metabolism
- Stimulates appetite and encourages feed intake
- No milk withdrawal – safe for use in lactating cows

Dosing:

- Administer two boluses orally immediately after calving
- Give one additional bolus 12 hours later, if required



When to use:

- Immediately post-calving in high-risk animals (e.g. high yielders, over conditioned cows, or those with previous metabolic issues)
- As part of a transition cow protocol in herds with known ketosis
- At the first signs of ketosis (e.g. drop in milk yield, reduced appetite, or dullness)

If you are interested in learning how Ketanor Boluses could benefit your herd, please get in touch.

Dispensary Update

- **Synulox RTU** – We are pleased to let you know that Synulox RTU is finally back in stock.
- **Norodine 24** – Due to ongoing stock issues, an alternative product will be available. *Please note that withdrawal periods remain the same*.
- **Heptavac P** – Supplies are beginning to come back in gradually.
- **Leptospirosis Vaccines** – Unfortunately, there are currently no Leptospirosis vaccines available across the UK. However, we have managed to import a suitable alternative.
- **Agrimin Boluses** – We are now stocking the full range of Agrimin boluses at competitive prices. Speak to a vet or contact the dispensary to place your order ahead of housing.

Managing Heat Stress In Dairy Cows



As the summer temperatures continue to climb, so does the risk of heat stress in your herd. High producing dairy cattle are particularly susceptible and even short periods of heat stress can negatively impact milk yield, fertility and overall health. With this in mind, we have some practical tips to help you manage the heat over the coming weeks:

- **Shade and ventilation** – Ensure cows have access to shade, consider turning cattle out into fields where there is natural shade provided by trees. Indoors, fans are useful to improve airflow and where possible, opening sides of buildings can provide natural ventilation.
- **Water** – Cattle's water intake can double in times of extreme heat. Therefore, it is essential to ensure there is plentiful clean water which is readily accessible and the flow rates of troughs are regularly checked to meet the increased demand.
- **Limit handling** – Where possible avoid stressful activities such as handling, TB testing and foot trimming during the hottest parts of the day. If possible, shift milking times earlier or later to avoid peak heat.
- **Feed adjustments** – Consider working with your nutritionist to increase the energy density of the ration to support milk yield when dry matter intakes drop, minimise sorting via ensuring a well-mixed ration, promote dry matter intake by pushing up feed and ensuring feed is always available.
- **Cooling systems** – Sprinkler systems combined with fans work by wetting the cows skin and using air movement to enhance evaporation and cooling, this is particularly useful in collecting yards.

Signs to look out for which indicate heat stress:

- Increased respiratory rate (panting)
- Reduced feed intake
- Lethargy or reduced movement
- Increased times standing
- Drop in milk yield
- Drop in conception rates

Welcoming Final-year Students From Bristol Vet School!

We are pleased to share that we have recently partnered with Bristol Vet School as an external educational provider to host final-year veterinary students during their clinical rotations. This is in addition to those from Surrey, who many of you will already be familiar with. Supporting the next generation of vets is something the team at Wyvern is extremely passionate about. Welcoming students into practice allows us to play our part in shaping the future of the veterinary profession. While with us, students gain exposure to a wide range of clinical cases and are encouraged to get involved in all aspects of farm animal work—giving them a real insight into the realities of farm practice. A huge thank you to all our clients who support us by welcoming students on visits. Your patience, time, and encouragement make a real difference to their learning experience.



Farmers Summer Party

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Annual Farmers Summer Party. It was great to see so many faces and come together as a community to catch up and celebrate our shared successes over the past year. Thankfully, we were fortunate that the rain held off, allowing us to enjoy food and drinks well into the evening. A big thank you to **Padfield Porkies** for the delicious hog roast and to **Palette & Pasture** for keeping us cool with their amazing gelato. We look forward to hosting again next year.



Charity Bake Sale

We recently hung up our stethoscopes and put our baking skills to the test for a charity bake sale at Frome Livestock Market in support of The Farming Community Network (FCN). We are delighted to share that we raised £342 for this fantastic cause! The Farming Community Network is a national charity that provides practical and emotional support to farmers and members of the rural community facing tough times. Whether it's financial difficulties, mental health struggles, or the daily pressures of farming life, FCN is there to listen, support, and help people find a way forward. A huge thank you to Frome Market for supporting the event and everyone who came along, donated, or stopped for a chat.



Our fundraising efforts continue into August, when we will be swapping aprons for trainers and taking on the team at Tyndale Farm Vets in a charity rounders match. Keep an eye on our social media channels for the all-important post-match report.

Staff Update - Carmen Is Back!

We are delighted to welcome Carmen back from maternity leave following the arrival of her twin boys, Beau and Hudson, last July. The office has felt quieter over the past year, so we are thoroughly enjoying having her back. We are sure you're just as excited as we are to have her big personality back out on farm - and in the office, where she is already bringing plenty of laughter and smiles!



Animal Health and Welfare Pathway



Sign up now for the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP), which offers funded reviews and follow-ups aimed at improving the health and productivity of your livestock.

This initiative is more than just funding. It's backed by a committee of vets and industry leaders working with DEFRA to show that farmers can take the lead in controlling and eradicating disease—before measures become mandatory in 2027.

By registering, you gain access to:

- Up to **three reviews and three endemic disease follow-ups per species**
- Funding support of **up to £3,260 (dairy), £2,833 (beef), and £1,075 (sheep) over three years**
- Support for **BVD testing, biosecurity assessments, and PI hunts** where needed
- A structured plan to tackle endemic disease, with direct vet support

Bonus: Signing up and completing the AHWP contributes points towards eligibility for future DEFRA grants and schemes.

Key Details:

- You can now sign up for more than one species under the same agreement number
- A follow-up must take place within 10 months of each review.
- Reviews under the previous AHWP scheme do not count toward the new funding limit.

How to sign up:

1. Visit: <https://apply-for-an-annual-health-and-welfare-review.defra.gov.uk/apply/endemics/start>
2. You'll need your **CRN number** and **RPA password**
3. You'll be given an **agreement number**
4. Then contact us to arrange your **first review visit**

This is a fantastic opportunity to improve herd/flock health, reduce disease losses, and future-proof your farm for upcoming grant opportunities.

Freeze Branding

Our vet techs have been busy out and about delivering our new freeze branding service – and we are pleased to now offer this to all clients. Freeze branding is a permanent and effective method of marking cattle using chilled irons. The process works by destroying the pigment-producing cells in the hair follicles, so the hair grows back white – creating a clear, long-lasting brand.

This service is priced per cow, regardless of the number of digits or brands required. If you would like to use this service, please contact the office to book.



Reminder: Is Your MilkSure Up To Date?

Did you know that if you haven't completed MilkSure training within the last five years, you may no longer be Red Tractor compliant? To help keep everyone up to date, Emily will be hosting another MilkSure meeting before the end of the year. If you would like to attend or need to check your status, please contact the office to register your interest.



Wyvern Proactive Farmers Skittle League Roundup

As part of the Wyvern Farm Vets' Proactive Farmer Scheme, we recently wrapped up the first season of our social *Skittles Knockout Cup*.

Hosted at the quirky and historic *Tucker's Grave Inn*, the league brought together farmers, friends, and vets alike for an evening of laughter, healthy competition, and plenty of team spirit. The matches were fiercely contested, but always in good humour, showcasing the camaraderie that sits at the heart of our farming community.

A huge congratulations to this season's champions, **"Don't Look Back in Angus"**, who bowled their way to a well-deserved victory! Hats off also to our valiant runners-up, **"Bud's Best Bowlers"**.

The skittles league has been a brilliant way to bring our proactive farmers together off-farm, and we're already planning the next season. If you haven't joined in yet, don't worry, there's plenty more to come!

Thanks to everyone who took part and made the league such a success.



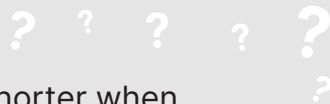
Also, a special congratulations to our individual Skittles League award winners:

Highest Male Score: Robert Robinson

Highest Female Score: Hannah Ovens & Alexandra Creed

Top Spare: Josh Ovens & Derek Robinson

Riddle Time...



What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?

Answer: short

Useless Fact

Goats have rectangular pupils to enable them to have a wider field of vision.

Dates For Your Diary:

12th August - Smallholder Synchronised lambing

Join Katie for an informative session to learn how Controlled Internal Drug Release (CIDR) devices can help you: advance the breeding season, synchronise oestrus for planned matings and tighten your lambing block to improve your flock's performance.

13th September - Frome Show

Look out for our stand near the cattle show ring—drop by for a chat and enjoy a refreshment.

1st October - Dairy Show

Find us in the Quantock Pavilion - drop by for a chat and enjoy a refreshment.

5th November - First aid course with Green Way Training

Join us for a human first aid session run by Green Way - this session will cover the basics and include real life scenarios you could face on your farm.

Did You Know ...?

There are multiple ways to get in touch with us, aside from a phone call?

WhatsApp for reception – Need assistance for a non-emergency you can message our reception team on 07903 782838

WhatsApp for the dispensary - for any medicine's orders you can also message us directly on 07923 432502



Social Media – We are active on social media!



Unit B5, Southgate, Commerce Park, Frome. BA11 2RY
office@wyvernfarmvets.co.uk | **01373 451115**

www.wyvernfarmvets.co.uk

