

NEWSLETTER

The latest from the South Moor Farm team

HEAT STRESS IN CATTLE



The temperature at the end of June soared into the 30's down here in Devon! Temperatures this high can have significant effects on Cattle health and productivity. Cattle are usually comfortable in temperatures up to the early 20's, but beyond this they can exhibit signs of heat stress, particularly when humidity is high and/or air movement is limited.

Signs of heat stress:

Cattle experiencing heat stress may have a rapid breathing rate (over 50 breaths per minute), deep breaths, drooling, lethargy and crowding around water sources. Housed cattle may all be standing next to open panels/windows or sticking their noses out over walls to seek cool air. If severely affected cattle can collapse and potentially die.

Why does heat stress matter?

Apart from the obvious severe cases where cattle are clearly sick, heat stress can have lots of underlying issues that will reduce their productivity. Cattle can reduce feed intake by up to 30% when experiencing heat stress which ultimately leads to lower milk yields and poor fertility in dairy cattle, as well as reduced growth rates in beef cattle.

What can we do to prevent heat stress?

If at all possible it's best to avoid handling, transporting or gathering stock on hot days. These activities increase the animals temperatures in an conditions and with the addition of a hot external temperature can cause heat stress. Ensuring animals at grass have ready access to shade and fresh water is also incredibly important. You can also try to feed animals at cooler points of the day to avoid them all crowding around a feed face in the middle of the heat.

What to do if you think your herd have heat stress?

If you have an animal which is experiencing heat stress you should move them to a cool and shaded area, provide fresh water and then contact your vet who can give further advice about how best to cool your animal in their particular situation.

OUR UPCOMING SHOWS



We are excited to be attending lots of the local shows this summer. The first ones being:

- **Totnes Show - Sunday 26th July**
- **Yealmpton Show - Wednesday 29th July.**

Look out for us and come and say Hi, we will be obvious to spot with our multi coloured life size cow!

ALREADY SMASHING IT? OR OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE?

We're hoping to start providing some benchmarking data for any of our farm clients who want to take part. This will allow you to see (anonymously, of course!) how your farm compares to others in the area in all sorts of areas; lambing stats, cattle fertility, antibiotic use, to name just a few.

It can help set realistic goals, monitor progress, and adopt best practices. Ultimately, benchmarking supports continuous improvement and contributes to the long-term sustainability and profitability of the business.

Watch this space for more details.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

A massive congratulations to Abbie and Charlotte, who have both officially tied the knot over the last month. Wishing the happy couples a lifetime filled with laughter and unforgettable memories.

There is also wonderful news for Georgie and Sarah, who have both recently welcomed beautiful little baby boys into the world. Congratulations to both families on their newest arrivals, and best wishes as they embark on this adventure.

All our best,
The South Moor Farm Team x

THE CHEAPEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE ACTION TO MAINTAIN YOUR FLOCK OR HERD'S HEALTH STATUS?



Imagine if there was a single action that could make or break the future health of your flock or herd?

Imagine if that action didn't cost the earth, and likely just required a little extra labour during your daily stock checks.

Imagine if that action could prevent the possibility of multiple diseases spreading through your flock or herd – from infectious lameness (Footrot, CODD, Digital Dermatitis), to parasite issues, Johne's, BVD, infectious abortions and more.

Well, the magic bullet is – **ISOLATION** of incoming stock.

When overlooked, a lack of isolation and quarantine can lead to things like....

Sudden C.O.D.D. outbreaks raging through naïve flocks, with vast amounts of labour and medicine needed to attempt to treat this debilitating lameness, as well as secondary losses to productivity (fertility, growth rates etc), with issues grumbling on for months or even years to come.

Or uncontrollable gut worm or liver fluke burdens, causing poor growth rates, wasting or deaths, that get worse not better after using wormers of flukicides, because treatment resistance parasites have been unknowingly bought in, and then populated the pasture and home stock.

So, when you are next bringing new stock onto your farm – Isolate them (in separate pasture or shed) for at least 3 weeks, observe for any signs of infectious diseases, lameness, diarrhoea, wasting, skin irritation etc, test for worms/fluke, and consider testing for other infectious diseases and treating accordingly. Call us to discuss further a specific isolation protocol for your farm.

REDWATER ALERT!



Redwater (bovine babesiosis) is a life-threatening, tick-borne disease. Which is caused by the Babesia parasite, which destroys red blood cells. Symptoms to look out for would be red or dark urine, high fever, pale or yellow mucous membranes, and severe weakness.

Unfortunately, there have been a lot of redwater cases around in the last few weeks, including in parts of the country that don't traditionally see it.

The APHA continue to offer free testing (on a case-by-case basis) so if you suspect redwater give us a call.

IVYBRIDGE: 01752 892390

DARTINGTON: 01803 900181

KINGSBRIDGE: 01548 852766

MODBURY: 01548 830210

farm@southmoorvets.co.uk



**South Moor
Farm Vets**

**JUL
2026**