

NEWSLETTER

The latest from the South Moor Farm team

TIME TO WORM?



Now spring seems to be in full force, unfortunately so are the parasites! With lots of naïve young stock now turned out to pasture reaching for a worming product might be high on your list of jobs to do.

The first worm we tend to see causing problems in spring is *Nematodirus*. This affects grazing lambs the most, but luckily, a white drench is still very effective at killing them. We hope many of you saw our informative video (thanks BMO!) on our socials explaining more about *Nematodirus* worms and eggs. If not, check it out!

However, we would still recommend regular Faecal Egg Counting for both cattle and sheep. This helps us make sure we are using the correct wormer at the right time, reducing the risk of developing wormer resistance and stopping unnecessary treatments.

The AHWP (Animal Health and Welfare Pathway) provides funding from the government to investigate worm burden and resistance in sheep, and is an excellent way of seeing if you have resistance on the farm. Once the initial review is completed, follow-up money can then be accessed to investigate other areas of health and welfare such as minerals, abortions and lameness to name a few. Many of you are part of the scheme but funding is available annually, and you can access different funding pots if you are beef and sheep for example, so give us a ring to see if you are due!

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farmers-how-to-apply-for-funding-to-improve-animal-health-and-welfare>

REMINDER - NEW OPENING HOURS STARTING FROM MAY!

From the beginning of May, our opening hours will be changing.

The farm department will be open from 8am to 5pm, and our phone lines will also open at 8am so you can book visits and order medication earlier.

All orders will need to be in by 4:45pm so that they can be signed off and put up before the end of the day. If you're collecting after 5pm, we can put your order in the lockbox, except for refrigerated items like vaccines, which will need to be collected from inside.

If you are unsure of your practice lockbox code please let us know.

FETF GRANT APPLICATIONS EXTENDED

The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) application window is now open until **midday on Tuesday 12 May**.

If you have already started your application, we encourage you to use this time to review and finalise your submission.

If you have not yet applied, there is still time to consider how the fund could support your business.

You can read up on what is included on the gov.uk website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-fetf-2026/apply-for-the-farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-fetf-2026>

BECKY'S HALF MARATHON



You may recognise Becky from the farm office at Kingsbridge. On Sunday 12th April, she took part in the London Half Marathon to raise money for the Brain Tumour Charity, a cause that is very close to her family's

hearts. Through her determination and generosity, Becky managed to raise over £850 for the charity, with her work bake sale playing a big part in reaching that fantastic total.

Many of you know Becky is a keen baker—she's quite often baking for our meetings and occasions and never needs much of an excuse to put her apron on.

Her commitment, both in training for the run and raising funds, has been inspiring to see. We are all extremely proud of her achievements and grateful for the effort she has put in.

Well done Becky!
From everyone here at South Moor



ENSURING THE BEST START IN LIFE

With Spring block calving coming to an end, now is the time to ensure calves are getting the best start to life whether this be in a beef or dairy unit. Calving is just the beginning, and ensuring these calves have the best start will have a significant impact on the productivity of your farm.

Colostrum is the first and arguably, the most important step for a newborn calf. Ensuring a calf receives 3L of good quality colostrum in the first 6 hours will provide that all-important passive immunity vital for the first few weeks-months of life. It is basically how they get their immune system, and without it they are wide open to all sorts of diseases. Good passive transfer will reduce the level of various calf diseases, including pneumonia and scours which in turn reduces growth rates and has a long-lasting impact into their productive adult life.

It's easy to check the quality of colostrum (using a Brix refractometer, or other types of colostrometer), so that you know that what the calf is getting is the good stuff. (Often the visual appearance of the colostrum can be misleading!). Blood samples can also be taken from calves between 1-7 days old to give us an idea of how successful the colostrum intake has been, and tell us if there's a problem that needs fixing.

Regular calf weighing carried out by you or by your farm vet team will monitor daily liveweight gains to ensure adequate nutrition and health going forward. Weighing can also help with the detection of disease i.e. if calves start dropping weight, and aid with weaning decisions. This, along with the help of your vets, will give your calves the best start to life. Feel free to contact your local branch to discuss how we can help your calves!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We have a range of training meetings coming up please give us a call if you'd like to sign up to any of them.

Red Tractor Medicine Course

- Wednesday 13th May
- Ivybridge Practice
- 2-4pm

Milksure

- Wednesday 10th June
- Ivybridge Practice
- 12-2pm

Flock Health Club

- Thursday 9th July
- Location TBC
- 7pm

IVYBRIDGE: 01752 892390 **DARTINGTON: 01803 900181**
KINGSBRIDGE: 01548 852766 **MODBURY: 01548 830210**
farm@southmoorvets.co.uk