

Pig practice

As well as a dairy/beef/sheep practice we also run a busy pig practice from St David's Farm Practice.

We look after the Hermitage Seaborough boar stud and their multiplier farms locally. We have a good base of breeder to finisher units from Cornwall to Somerset and Dorset. If you would like to discuss any pig issues please give Tony a call at the practice. We will be having a meeting on the new PMWS vaccine – Circovac – on Tuesday 4th December. Please call the practice for more information.



CalfMatrix

Successful calf rearing is sometimes a very difficult thing to achieve. Thankfully there is a new natural feed additive available called *CalfMatrix* that provides all the important nutrients the animal requires in times of stress.

It is not a cure for illness or an antibiotic – far from it. But farmers who fed *CalfMatrix* commented their calves were healthier and grew better.

For years nutritionists have paid attention to the requirements of animals in terms of energy, protein and fibre to give a balanced diet aimed at

sustaining growth and production. Formulations have been carefully supplemented with minerals and vitamins to ensure there is no limiting factor in meeting the animal's needs. Now the increasing challenge is to focus on the animal's needs from a health point of view.

CalfMatrix is a unique blend of herbs, essential oils and powerful antioxidants specially selected for their ability to provide the nutrients to support the body's natural defence mechanisms.

CalfMatrix is a complimentary feedingstuff. It comes in two forms: *CalfMatrix Milk* designed to be added to milk or milk replacer and *CalfMatrix Dry* for adding to follow on dry feed. For more information contact your local Three Counties Feeds nutritionist, or the office on **01884 256256**.



Three Counties Feeds open blending operation

We are delighted to announce the opening of our new blending plant on the 1st August 2007.

The plant is at Postlake Farm, Clyst St Mary, Exeter and is ideally situated in the middle of our trading area, close to the major road networks, near the ports of Teignmouth and Plymouth and also within a grain growing region, hopefully allowing our farmer suppliers to deliver their own grain to us.

This is our first venture where we are taking responsibility for the whole manufacturing process and with the expertise of John Pyne, who runs the plant, we are able to produce our own wide range of top quality and competitively priced coarse blends.

After a very good start we look forward to long and continued success with this project.

For any further information or prices, please do not hesitate to contact either Steve Symons at the office on **01884 256256** or your local sales contact.

Kevin Roberts



Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) – the implications

Will it affect your business? The proposals for setting up further NVZs in the UK pose perhaps the biggest immediate regulatory challenge for dairy farmers.

They include a compulsory 22 week slurry storage capacity, extending the

NVZ to 70 or 100 % of England and reducing the amount of manure/slurry nitrogen that can be deposited per hectare to 170kg. This works out at about 0.7 cows per acre.

Although this is not our area of expertise, it is something that we are being asked about on farms. We try as a company to keep ourselves as up to date as we can on the issues affecting UK agriculture. To this end, if you want more information on NVZs you can log

on to our website at www.threecountiesfeeds.com. Click on “Useful Stuff” from the menu on the left hand side. From here you will be able to follow a direct link to the DEFRA website page containing information and maps of the areas being considered in the latest proposals. As always, you can of course ask us for more information.

Raw material update

What a difference 12 months can make! The raw material market has seen an unprecedented rise which had been very difficult to foresee.

Not only was the cost of materials a concern, but the availability of some materials proved to be quite a problem.

The table below shows the differences in the cost of common feed prices over the past 12 months and regular updates will appear in future newsletters.

Soya – The market has firmed over the past few months concern over next year's crop forecast are likely to keep price edging upwards.

	November 06	November 07
Hipro Soya	£153	£215
Arg Soya	£144	£210
Sugar Beet	£105	£165
Soya Hulls	£85	£146
Rapeseed Meal	£97	£149
Wheat	£83	£160
Barley	£79	£156

Sugar beet – Early prices were favourable against wheat but I'm sure increases will occur later in the winter.

Rapeseed meal – Most probable to follow the soya rise, although plantings across Europe have increased.

Molasses – This is the only good news, very cost effective at the moment with strong demands from customers.

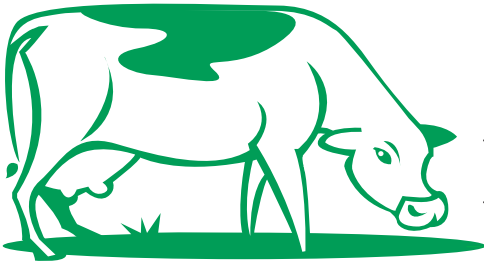
Wheat and barley – Prices had risen to dizzy heights but over the last couple of

months we have seen a significant reduction in wheat futures. Let's hope for a more realistic cereal price for next winter.

Succulent feeds – We have been inundated with requests for brewers grains, potatoes and other alternative feeds. Unfortunately we constantly experience supply problems with some companies choosing against deliveries into Devon and Cornwall.

Steve Symons – 01884 256256
(Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays)





St David's November 2007 Farm Newsletter



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Farm practice expansion

2007 was another busy year for the St David's Farm Practice. We have expanded considerably over the last two years and that has continued this year.

We have just employed another vet – Jeremy Hamilton, three years qualified from Northern Ireland – to maintain the practice at five farm vets.



Jeremy qualified from Liverpool in 2004 and has worked in large animal practice in Ireland for the last three years. He has moved to the South Hams with his partner and has joined the St David's Farm Practice with the aim of specialising in cattle practice.



Farm Health Project

Looking ahead we will continue to roll out the Farm Health Planning Project. This has been very successful.

The funding has enabled us to spend time with our farmers and highlight problem areas where we can focus our attention. One issue that has been highlighted is farms that have no recording or farms that have recording facilities but only record the minimum amount of data. If you do not record anything at all – fertility, mastitis, lameness – then how can you tell if you have a problem? You may think you have a problem but you can't measure it. If you can't measure it how will you know what measures to put in place to improve it and how will you measure any improvement?

From our own point of view NMR recording is potentially very valuable. Ideally NMR should record everything

you want – fertility, lameness and mastitis. They can only do this if you give them the correct information. If this happens then we, as your vets, can access this information. We can thus look at your farm and analyse your data. If there is a problem then we can measure it and target specific action. We can then review the data at a later date to measure any improvement. We can only do this if all the relevant data is supplied to NMR. For example do you supply all your service dates to NMR? Do you then supply all your PD dates to NMR? If you do both of these then we can do a full fertility review. If you don't supply this information then you are wasting a valuable resource – because it doesn't cost you anything more to record the extra information.

If you CIS record we can import your CIS information into InterHerd and carry out much of the same analysis. We require your permission to do this – please contact us for more information.