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The Hilltown Herd of pedigree Ayrshires comes in for milking on Saturday afternoon
Picture by Sally Clarke

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Chairman's letter

As expected there is, and will continue to be, a great deal of discussion about the fortunes of agriculture in the coming months, particularly dairy incomes. All in a time when agriculture is seen to be an important part of the economy by our consumers the general public. Something approaching 90% of the general public think farming is important to the UK economy. Some debate has ensued about the relative economic fortunes of various elements of the dairy sector. With falling milk prices on a monthly basis currently, every farming business will be striving in different ways to stem the cash outflow. Each situation will have different parameters and challenges.

Inevitably, some will decide that following a clear Tb test (whatever one of those is) that a sale is the best option. Others will opt to review their methods of production, however additional short term cost is inextricably linked to change. Despite some views to the contrary, the feed price vs the milk price is as favourable as it has been when milk prices have declined in the past. It was 2010 when wheat prices were last below £120, and the milk price was sub 25ppl. Soya heading below £300 for the winter was last seen three years ago. The options for next summer are considerably less. Increasing production is certainly not the option for all dairy businesses, but some have indicated that it's absolutely the right approach for them. For those which choose this route the economics are comparable with tougher times experienced previously. None of this is particularly palatable. Any reduction in income irrespective of system is always met with some discord. Despite the relative vagaries of the world markets for different commodities, milk being retailed at £1 or less for 4 pints is always going to be met with some unease (that's the polite version). The competition amongst retailers is as unforgiving as ever, while each one tries to establish a competitive edge over the others; however each farming business will need to evaluate its position and react accordingly.

The very best operators will continue to grow and develop while others have more challenging circumstances to pick their way through. Some of these challenges may be historic due to lack of investment/reinvestment, family/structural issues, poor management and so on. This may not be about scale. There are still some very strong, technically sound businesses which

deliver profit year in year out. A strong work ethic, the best quality forage, coupled with best in class management techniques and complementary nutritional advice are the bare bones for success; assuming the fundamentals of the cost base are sound. A recent discussion highlighted (again) the differences in profitability of a group of dairy businesses pursuing the same production system. Despite the system the difference in profitability between the best performing and the worst was stark: the gap being well in excess of 10ppl.

Currently the world is oversupplied with produce be it dairy, corn/grain and more locally beef. Sadly as much we want to let everyone know how unhappy we are about falling prices the short term looks challenging with no magical solution, despite being against the back drop of more favourable times ahead. Volatility as we are all aware is the new constant and the suggestion would be that these situations are to be expected periodically.

Interestingly, if you're that way inclined, looking at one report and very much thinking ahead to next year rather than now, (prior planning and all that) is to recognise and understand the impact of heat stress on milking cows. This can significantly depress fat content and has been seen as an issue for a very long time. This will affect most herds to some degree and is amplified by persistency of the hot spell and the level of milk production at point of the hot weather. This was first identified in 1922 by Ragsdale and Turner. Though not fully understood even today it's suspected that the overall health of the rumen has the biggest effect on milk components. The slightly more recent study by Heck et al in 2009 confirmed the same issues. The basics suggest that sub-acute ruminal acidosis (SARA) can be partly the result of heat stress. Essentially optimising or maintaining good rumen function is key to healthy productive cows. The majority of the research in this field is carried out in warmer climates than ours, but even here when exceptionally hot weather is experienced a perfectly healthy herd of cows look far from their best in hot conditions. Feed intakes drop and so will water consumption in exceptional circumstances. Clearly it's not a subject which can be understood fully in just a few words but to be aware of such issues and look to understand and manage the impact of such problems can be helpful. Prolonged



Graeme Cock
Chairman

periods of heat stress will reduce heat activity, conception rates etc. With many milk contracts moving to more constituent base, managing and understanding milk quality inevitably will be under closer scrutiny in the future as we strive to manage profitable businesses.

On a different note, some breaking hot news yesterday, suggested that there will be a shortage of cocoa beans by 2020 as a result of the more lucrative rubber plantation replacing bean plantations. The suggested repercussions being with increased chocolate consumption by (yes, you've guessed it) the Chinese, a chocolate shortage will ensue. So when it hits the fan and you are left perusing yet another poor milk cheque, even the comfort of a bar of fruit and nut may be excluded from your armoury of feel good tools. Can we really expect to be denied a simple pleasure of a bar of chocolate in the future because rubber is more profitable than cocoa? Sadly no niche opportunities in Western Europe for cocoa plantations, as the rain returns following some exceptional autumn sunshine; or is this just another mythical story which will prove to have little substance.

Graeme Cock

Mycotoxin research project “HY-SIL”

Dr Robin Hawkey, BSc (Hons) PhD, Senior Nutritionist



HY-SIL is an ongoing collaborative research project between Bristol Vet School, University of Nottingham, Duchy College and Micron Bio-Systems, Mole Valley Farmers and AB Vista, with the aim to assess the level of mycotoxin and common microbial pathogen contamination in silages and rations.

Following the very wet summer of 2012, many livestock farmers were left with stocks of low quality silages and so were facing problems in meeting the feed requirements of their livestock over the winter of 2012-13. Significant numbers were reporting low productivity and increased health problems over the first few months of winter feeding; it was suggested that mycotoxicosis was partly to blame and some farmers were therefore including mycotoxin binders in their feed rations.

Initial vet survey

To gain more information on silage related diseases of livestock, the Healthy Livestock Team at Duchy College's Rural Business School surveyed the farm veterinarians across the south west. 38 of the 86 questionnaires were returned.

Some 50% of vets observed an increase in incidence in dairy herds and 19% of vets estimated that 10% of dairy herds were affected; 82% reported listeriosis, with 50% citing mycotoxicosis as the most prevalent other silage-related disease, although 26% considered mycotoxicosis was over-diagnosed. The main conclusions were that mycotoxicosis and listeriosis were significant risks to animal health, there was a need for metabonomic research to aid diagnosis of mycotoxicosis and improved silage and feed management should focus on minimising moulds and undesirable bacterial growth.

Farmer survey

The aim of the project is to assess the extent to which contamination may affect health status and performance in dairy cattle. Silage samples and total mix rations (TMR) were taken from 50 farms across the South West, from Gloucester to Helston, between March and April 2014. Each farm was given the option to send any three samples. The silage samples were subjected to physical, chemical, microbiological and mycotoxin analysis. Silage and feed management, ration formulation, milk output and major animal diseases were also recorded at the time of sampling. Qualitative and quantitative data was provided and reviewed to determine any significant findings.

A range of farm sizes and yields were sampled with the average herd size being 159 cows.

No. of cows in milk	No. of farms	Average milk yield/ cow/lactation	No. of farms
Cow Nos. Min.40 - Max. 530		<6000	1
<100	14	6001-7000	8
100-150	11	7001-8000	15
151-200	11	8001-9000	12
>200	9	9001-10000	6
Total	130	1001-11000	1
		<11001	2

Number of farms expressing the herd health issues surveyed	
Herd health issues	No. of farms
Cows expressing low milk production with poor quality	6
Poor BCS	7
Decreased DM intake	4
Lowered milk production	10
Depressed reproductive performance	15
Abortion	20
Swollen hocks	14
Non-healing foot lesions	14
Udder inflammation	1
Mucous tags	2

Mycotoxin results

- Of the mycotoxins assayed, none were found in any of the grass silage samples.
- 78% of the remaining samples showed some mycotoxin presence.
- 89% of maize silage samples contained mycotoxins
- Over 70% of samples contain more than 1 mycotoxin (see table pg 5)

Number of different mycotoxins in samples that tested positive in maize, TMR and Other feed analysed		
Crop	Number of samples received	Samples with mycotoxins detected
Grass silage	51	0
Maize silage	29	26
TMR	38	27
Other	6	4
Total	124	57

Bacterial results

- Lactic acid bacterial presence was over 90% in forage samples (as expected from silage fermentations)
- 57% of forage samples contained yeasts and 34% contained moulds suggesting spoilage
- 72% of TMR samples had enterobacteria contamination. This includes bacteria such as E.coli and salmonella, as well as other bacteria possibly suggesting faecal contamination. Forage samples contained only 17% enterobacteria contamination suggesting mixing hygiene needs further examination.

Some initial conclusions

The bacteriological, chemical and mycotoxin data collected will be collated to further explore possible connections between forage quality, hygiene and animal health status. Initial analysis confirms widespread mycotoxin presence in TMR samples and in maize silage samples, with 42% containing over 500 ppb mycotoxin levels. Enterobacteria contamination of TMR samples will need further investigation.

To contact your Agri Business Manager please call them direct or on the FeedLine: 01278 444829



What's in your ration?

John Lawrence
Mineral Supplements Technical Manager



With most of the maize safely in the clamp and some already being fed, have you considered how you are going to make the best use of your winter ration?

Initially there is the question of how to deal effectively with a mycotoxin challenge to your herd.

An ongoing research project into the hygiene of forages fed on our farms (see my colleague Dr Robin Hawkey's article on page 4 of this newsletter) has highlighted that analysis confirms widespread mycotoxin presence in TMR and maize silage samples.



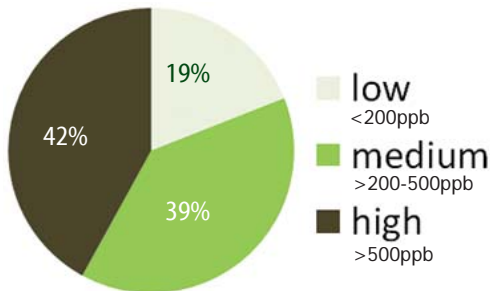
Results from HY-SIL trial

Number of different mycotoxins in samples that tested positive in maize, TMR and other feed analysed

No. of mycotoxins	Maize	TMR	Other
1	9	5	3
2	11	11	0
3	1	6	0
4	5	5	0
5	0	0	1
6	0	0	0

Almost 90% of the maize sampled in the survey tested positive for mycotoxins with 42% of maize silage samples with a mycotoxin loading considered to be high risk.

Mycotoxin risk levels in maize samples



Mycotoxins are substances generated from the secondary metabolic processes which occur naturally in a variety of moulds and fungi as they grow and mature. The amount and type varies with fungal species and with environmental conditions such as temperature and humidity. I should point out that visible mould does not necessarily mean mycotoxins are present, equally, a lack of visible mould does not mean they are not. They can develop either in the field (90% come in from the field) or in storage of the crop. Mycotoxins are not bacteria or even a live organism and as such, they cannot be killed off by treating the crop or the feed with an additive, caustic soda or acid.

The only effective way to deal with them is to bind them when they are in the gut. With these new results in mind, you may wish to consider the use of a good quality mycotoxin binder such as UltraSorb in your ration this winter. UltraSorb is available as a Farnpack (at 50g per head daily). Alternatively we can incorporate UltraSorb into your mineral, or a convenient Nutri-LINK TMR Farnpack.

It is worth noting that cows with any degree of acidosis are more likely to be adversely affected by a mycotoxin challenge due to inflammation of, or damage to the rumen wall, so keep an eye open for signs of acidosis and always rule this out as a cause of poor performance before assuming mycotoxins are to blame.

Ration potential

Is the ration you are feeding giving the performance that you would expect from it? If not, give due consideration to SARA (Sub Acute Rumenal Acidosis). Remember that even if the ration you are feeding is fine on paper, it doesn't always follow that it is what the cows are actually eating! Even low levels of sorting can produce a very different ration balance to the paper version and can easily lead to acidosis. Check the

potential acid loading (PAL) of your forages and where necessary use a good quality rumen buffer such as Acid Buf or sodium bicarbonate.

Once you have buffered the ration effectively, you could also consider the use of good quality "live" yeast such as Actisaf to help improve rumen function. The live yeast cultures scavenge oxygen in the rumen, creating anaerobic conditions for beneficial bacteria to perform, increasing dry matter intake. This can help to lift milk yield, or improve daily liveweight gains in beef systems and enhance rumen function.

We can supply the product as 'Actisaf 50 yeast Farnpack', or we can add Actisaf yeast to your existing mineral supplement or Nutri-LINK TMR Farnpack for added convenience and cost saving.



As your ration will have changed over recent months, have you considered the implications of this on the mineral balance being supplied to your herd? Different ration components and the levels being fed of some key components can significantly change the mineral requirement of your herd. With this in mind, a reminder that it is important to check the suitability of your mineral supplement for the ration you are feeding and your herd performance, even if it is only to ensure you are not paying for something you don't really need.

Some feeds such as maize gluten, rape or Trafford Gold, for example, are much higher in phosphorus than say grass silage or sugar beet which are very low in phosphorus. Remember that every 1% of phosphorus on the label of your mineral supplement will cost you around £25 per tonne of minerals, so you don't need to overfeed this by much to be wasting money – especially as cows cannot store phosphorus so any surplus will just end up in the slurry pit!

Now is a good time to talk to us about a mineral diet check to ascertain exactly what mineral balance is required for your herd. This will take into account the mineral balance of your silage and the level of performance of your herd, the ration being fed and any areas of concern you may wish to address such as fertility, udder health or lameness.

For more information about mycotoxins, UltraSorb or to arrange a free mineral diet check, please ring the mineral line on 01278 420481 or email minerals@molevalleyfarmers.com

By the Editor

As dark nights draw in with Christmas just weeks away, most farmers will have settled into a winter routine and had time to reflect on the year so far. From a farm perspective, it's been one of the best growing years in living memory which has enabled good quality and volumes of grazing and conservation crops to be achieved. Reports of record crops of maize being harvested in plenty of time to complete post-harvest plantings without causing any damage to the soil structure, bodes well for a good establishment.

However, after the farm gate, things have not been so positive, with most commodities suffering severe price pressure during the year. I do not intend to use the rest of this column with the details, but it's worth noting that the first to suffer savage cuts was the beef sector which was partially caused by a reaction to the previous year's 'Horsegate' price hike and an unprecedented over supply of imported meat from the Republic of Ireland. This coincided with a price war between the retailers and the price crashed!

It is good to see that there is some stability back in the market with a slow but steady trend upwards. Like beef, most of the other commodities are in a worldwide surplus, which is the main reason for prices to head southwards. However, political intervention doesn't help much, neither does the slow economy in the EU which has an adverse effect on currency values.

Most commentators are predicting a gradual recovery of around a year. In the meantime, farmers have to batten down the hatches and focus on making their businesses as efficient as possible, looking at what they do on a day to day basis and make sure it is done in the best way possible. On an average farm the difference between the good and the very good is probably no more than 2% and this difference is often the amount of attention to detail invested in the day to day tasks. Accurate weighing of ingredients and the output is so important to every business.

The retail food sector is having to analyse what has happened to the consumer's

shopping habits over the last few years. The retail model favoured by the UK's biggest supermarkets that has dominated supply-line culture over the past decade is breaking up because consumers have re-discovered how to shop.

Instead of doing their weekly shop in one of the giant retailers, they now compare prices (and quality) across a range of outlets, including online purchasing as well as discounters for the basics before moving on to upmarket stores such as Waitrose or M&S to top up. This is a seismic trend which is causing suppliers and processors to question the wisdom of establishing long term arrangements with supermarkets who are notoriously hard bargainers, but who are now being described in financial circles as 'uninvestable'. This means the supply chain that was rock solid is more unreliable and retail companies can be expected to become increasingly insecure as competitors take business from them.

until next month ...



Grain market review

PLUS STRAIGHTS NEWS

Judith Clifford
Senior Alternative Feeds Trader

Prices came under pressure through the summer as harvest figures throughout the Northern hemisphere generally improved with each report. The International Grain Council reported world cereal production @ 1983 million tonnes, just short of the 2013 record figure.

Wheat production is estimated to be at its highest ever level of 717mt with maize production close to last year's record 974mt. This will increase world stocks on both commodities.

The 2014 EU cereal harvest is expected to reach a record 317mt. This has been achieved by favourable weather, increased plantings and better yields. It will push cereal stocks from 32mt to more than 50mt and bring stock to usage from 12% to 15%. The quality of some wheat has been compromised by excessive rains during August through Northern and Central EU with France suffering significant volumes being downgraded from milling to feed wheat, due to lower protein content. The UK increased wheat production from 11.92mt last year to 16.621mt this year with barley dropping to 7.02mt from 7.09mt.

With abundant stocks and prices at these lower levels, it makes sense to utilise as much cereal as possible in the diet. Silage results have been variable but the lower energy or wetter more acidic silage may fit well with Mole Soda Starch Wheat and Maxammon treated grain with their pH levels of 8.5 – 9. These are available from our dedicated sites in North Somerset and Wiltshire.

Caustic treated wheat is a tried and tested way of controlling rumen pH but Maxammon treated grain is gaining in popularity as a stable alkaline finished feed that minimises the risk of acidosis. It can either be stored outside on a concrete base covered or inside uncovered and has the added benefit of being unattractive to vermin and birds. We can also supply whole or rolled grain, including ground maize and caustic pearls or Maxammon for home treatment.

Sugar is also required for rumen fermentation and molasses provides sucrose, which is proven to be beneficial to rumen function.

Cane molasses has been shown to increase dry matter intake being highly palatable, encouraging animals to eat more. 'Regulated Release' protein molasses is a cost effective way of adding protein to the diet, along with sugar. These are particularly useful to balance maize based diets, supplying all the benefits of a molasses blend with the added benefit of highly efficient regulated release protein. Please call your local office for a rundown of the range of bulk and mini bulk molasses available.

One way of getting the most of your silage is the addition of moist feeds in the ration. Their palatability will encourage intakes and increase the energy density of the diet and milk output. We have a range of blends to suit most diets.

General

Soya prices edged downwards through October as the huge US crop was harvested with each report increasing the estimated crop to an incredible 20% increase on last year. The WASDE report released on the 10th October projected 47.1 bushels per acre which more than offset reduced harvest acreage. Argentina and Brazil announced planned record plantings, an estimated 56.65mt and 93.95mt respectively. Rapeseed production was reduced for Canada, based on lower yields but the EU was increased to a record 23.5mt.

It's great to be able to report such positive news and it could be time to look at forward prices. Current prices are based on a season where we've had generally good weather, growing conditions and high levels of planting, but we all know how fragile these markets can be, should circumstances change.

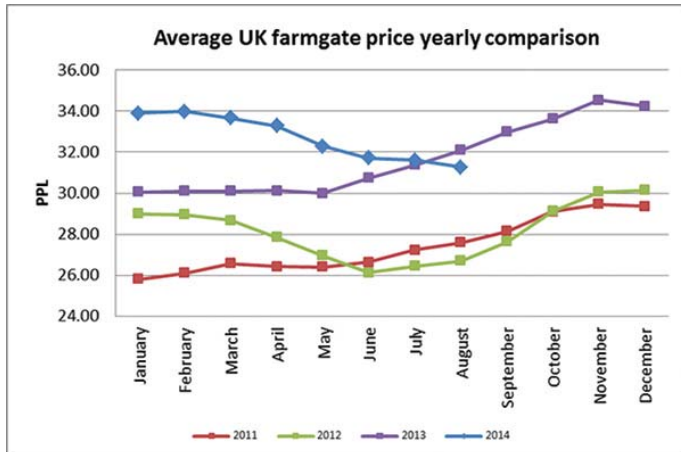
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Milk production this winter

Dr Robin Hawkey, BSc (Hons) PhD, Senior Nutritionist



Market volatility, milk price and forage quality remain underlying themes this winter, combined with the uncertainty generated by the Basic Farm Payment and quota abolition. Recent better milk prices have encouraged some new entrants but the number of UK dairy units continues inexorably below 10,000 units.



(DairyCo website)

However, dairy farms continue to grow in size with ever increasing sophistication and management. So where can efficiencies and cost savings come from?

Team GB success

Dave Brailsford, manager of the UK 2012 Olympic cycling team, highlighted key factors for success:

- a team with the skills and motivation to succeed
- to understand what you want to achieve
- to understand where you are now
- a plan in place to see how you can get from where you are now to what you want to achieve
- to understand the 'aggregation of marginal gains'. Put simply...how small improvements in a number of different aspects of what we do can have a huge impact to the overall performance of the team.

Managing costs

A key challenge for some dairy farms, with inevitable pressures on costs and reducing labour, will be to ensure sufficient time to manage the business, to truly appreciate costs and the impact of reducing those costs on overall output and efficiency. Understanding milk contracts and the balance of volume vs milk quality will be a key calculation for all farms this winter, to provide a clear focus for all involved on the farm. Staff motivation and commitment is always vital.

The benefits of 'aggregation of marginal gains' will be crucial for many dairy farms this winter. Simply, no matter how good any system is, a range of small gains all add up to make a significant difference resulting in increased efficiency. Such factors might include...

Ration objectives

Maximising milk yield and/or quality (depending on milk contract) by ration construction relating to starch, fibre and protein constraints – carefully discuss ration objectives and 'set up' of computer rationing programs

Einstein famously quoted "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

Mole Valley Feeds Solutions have invested in training and research over several years, with current ongoing links with major institutions such as Bristol Vet School, Harper Adams, Nottingham University and Cornell University in the United

States, alongside collaboration with key industry suppliers. Consequently MVFS are able to offer a very comprehensive range of products supported qualified staff using 'state of the art' rationing software.

Einstein famously quoted "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

What will you do differently this winter to improve the efficiency of your dairy herd?



- **Fine tune**
Consider the use of specific amino acids and other products to fine tune rations
- **Check mineral status**
Check and re-assess mineral status (often minerals are fed in excess / imbalance with both performance and cost implications)
- **Review calving**
Review calving pattern and milk production profile in relation to milk contract
- **Forage monitoring**
Optimising forage utilisation (clamp management) and rumen pH/health
- **Check feeders and mixers**
Ensuring accurate feeding as recommended (especially forage dry matter corrections)
 - o calibration of feeders
 - o correct mixer wagon maintenance and operation (don't overfill – significantly reduces mix quality)
- **Specialist equipment**
Utilisation of equipment such as Penn State Particle Separator, pH boluses and Koster moisture tester to ensure ration consistency
- **Carefully monitor** and evaluate digestion by manure scoring
- **Re-assess** dry cow rations
- **Monitor** fertility
- **Assess** both the cost and effectiveness of calf rearing
- **Review** heifer rearing and performance once heifers calve

To discuss any of the points raised above, call your Mole Valley Feed Solutions Nutritionist (contact details on page 2) or call the FeedLine on 01278 444829

Beef South West

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER

WESTPOINT, EXETER

Doors open: 8.30am

Following its successful inaugural event at Westpoint, Exeter two years ago, Beef South West serves as the opener for the region's Primestock winter show season.

This specialist one day event, organised by the National Beef Association South West (NBASW), takes place on Thursday 13 November and provides the region's beef farmers with access to the industry's most respected advisers and manufacturers.

Mole Valley Farmers are pleased to be the main sponsor and we will have a stand in the main hall where farmers can seek advice on fertility, nutrition, animal health, forage production and other areas of farm efficiency. Beef and sheep nutritionist, Lachie Maclachlan, will be speaking about production efficiency at Speakers' Corner and will be joined by Mary Vickers, EBLEX Senior Beef Scientist and Richard Fuller, Technical Director of the Stabiliser Cattle Company.

British beef export EBLEX Specialist, Remi Fourrier, will be sharing his extensive experience and offering forecasts and advice which will benefit producers keen to improve their understanding of the industry. There will be an update on Meat South West's PGI status and its significance to the region's producers. Debbie Butcher, Senior Beef Analyst at the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) will also be on hand to answer levy payers' questions.



Beef South West 2014 by Julie Edwards, Mole Valley Farmers' Head of Agri Marketing & Comms

With literally only a few weeks to go, this year's Beef South West event looks set to continue its successful formula of showcasing the best of the region's primestock, with an opportunity to hear from industry leaders and specialists and meet up with friends and family for a day away from the farm.

Mole Valley Farmers is pleased to support the event and we look forward to welcoming you to our stand to meet our team of technical specialists, enjoy some hospitality and take advantage of some member only show offers on a range of animal handling equipment, feed and supplements and animal health products.

The ongoing challenge to beef prices, implementation of the CAP's Basic Payment Scheme and the supermarket price wars will certainly be hot topics of conversation. Our team will be on hand to provide the latest industry news and offer guidance on costs of production. Our Red Meat Team will also be able to discuss and review your individual on farm feeding systems and rations and discuss access to free silage analysis to ensure you are maximising your on farm opportunities.

We look forward to welcoming you to our stand next to the main ring in the arena and wish the organisers and attendees a very successful and enjoyable day!



Health issues are covered by Castle Vets' Tim Bebbington, Ailsa Mines a vet with Zoetis, the world's largest producer of farm animal vaccines and medicines and Bill Harper, Chairman of the NBA's TB committee.

Successful Smithfield champion breeder, Ayrshire's Hugh Dunlop, is to judge the primestock classes. The Championship winner will receive a cheque for £500 (sponsor: Mike Cowall Construction) and £250 for the reserve (sponsor: NatWest).

Danny Wyllie, renowned judge and breeder of British Blues in Staffordshire will judge the prestigious Beef South West Young Bull of the Year class, sponsored by Harpers Home Mix with the winner receiving £500. Mr. Wyllie will also judge four new Pedigree Beef Calf classes.

These divide into Continental and Native heifers and bulls. Again, there is a £500 overall championship prize (sponsor: Crediton Milling) with runner-up taking home £250 donated by Kivells.

The event Chairman, Jono Cole commented "The NBA stages this event so that South West beef farmers have every opportunity to make the most of their businesses in a challenging climate. The committee are farmers and want what is best for our cattle. Our experience has helped put together a day where only the most reliable and experienced advice will be on hand. At the same time, some of the country's top quality primestock will be forward for judging. For £10, I call that good value."

Following the £15/ticket pre event dinner on Wednesday evening at Westpoint, gates open at 8.30am the following morning. Tickets are £10 each. Under 16 and YFC member tickets £5, subject to relevant identification. More details available on:

www.beefsouthwest.co.uk

DEVON CATTLE BREEDERS SOCIETY AUTUMN SHOW AND SALE



The Autumn Show and Sale of Red Ruby Devon cattle lived up to auctioneer, Derek Biss' billing as the

"biggest and best" sale of Red Ruby Devon cattle for over a decade. Sedgemoor market was full to the brim with 250+ quality Devon cattle and despite the slide on the beef price this year, the breed bucked the market trend with strong demand throughout, until the hammer finally went down on the last lot of the day.

The picture shows the Nowers stock bull, Stonegrove Match Maker VG86, who made top price for the bulls at £3990 going to Sir David Wills' estate near Bristol.

www.redrubydevon.co.uk



Profitable, semi intensive beef

Lachie Maclachlan, Beef and Sheep Specialist



Following the 'Profit from B&W Beef' article featured in last month's newsletter and recognising that finishing bulls will not suit many farmers, we turn our attention to producing beef utilising grazed grass and silage, topped up with less concentrates.

It is important to re-emphasise the need to identify the specifications of the processor in order to fix appropriate target weights through the various stages of the animal's life and identify the daily liveweight gain (DLWG) targets.

In order to avoid underweight or classification penalties, steers need to be at least 550/600kg LW (260kg DW) O- 2 grade, be careful though because some abattoirs deduct for a fat class 2 and some are 270 DW on their minimum weight. This is still a 30p deduction from the R4L standard, but it is unrealistic to expect to achieve much better than O- 3 for Holstein steers. We have made calculations based on calves born in autumn and spring to take account of the animal's ability to fully utilise grazed grass and an average DLWG of 0.85 from weaning to slaughter.

In our costings, we have used the EBLEX Forage Cost Calculator to arrive at an accepted value for forage. We assume an average analysis for grazing and conserved forages and free access to both. The essence of the system is to maximise the use of high quality forage from post weaning to slaughter and to supplement with appropriate concentrates, either home grown rolled cereals or purchased protein and minerals when appropriate. With a fluctuating market, it is difficult to calculate a finished deadweight price, so we have used a conservative £3.00 per DW kg in this example, although sometimes it might be possible to negotiate a bonus with the abattoir for an even group of cattle. The margins achieved opposite are not ideal, but they do show a profit.

The difference between spring or autumn born calves on the end margin is surprisingly similar, but the management is obviously different if the target daily growth rate of 0.8kg is to be achieved.

Target Regime

Produce a 600kg LW steer at 20 months @ O- 2/O-3

Autumn born calf			
Calf purchase / arrival on farm weight		45kg	£50
Year 1			
Sept-Dec	Standard milk powder / concentrates	120kg	£100
Jan-Mar/Apr	Concentrates / good quality forage	220kg	£80
May-July	Grazed grass / 2kg barley + protein minerals per day	300kg	£60
Aug-Dec	Grass / silage / 3kg barley + protein minerals per day	420kg	£95
Year 2			
Dec-Mar	Winter ration - silage + 3kg barley + protein/minerals	520kg	£163
Apr-Jun	Grass / silage + 5kg barley + minerals	600kg	£120
		Net cost	£668
Bedding - MLC Levy – slaughter cost – transport – vet med – water – mortality			£140
		Gross cost	£808
Return 600kg @ 50% kill out = 300kg at £3.00/kg £900 = £82 margin			

Spring born calf			
Calf purchase / arrival on farm weight		45kg	£50
Mar-June	Standard milk powder / concentrates	140kg	£120
July-Aug	Good quality grazing / 2.5kg concentrate	190kg	£50
Sept-Apr	Silage / 2kg concentrate	390kg	£200
May – June	Grass / 1kg concentrate	450kg	£80
Jul-Aug	Grass / 3kg concentrate	510kg	£60
Oct-Dec	Winter housing silage / 5kg barley + protein + mins	600kg	£145
		Net cost	£705
Bedding - MLC Levy – slaughter cost – transport – vet med – water – mortality			£140
		Gross cost	£845
Return 600kg @ 50% kill out = 300kg at £3.00/kg £900 = £65 margin			

The assumptions I have made are that the calves born in the spring cannot go to grass in June or July unless the weather conditions allow, as they will check too much. The best of the cattle will finish at grass in the second summer, without having to be housed. The margins on this system show clearly that if too many of the steers are housed the margin will be tight.

If you would like to discuss this issue further, call Lachie Maclachlan on 07818 542859 or your Agri Business Development Manager

The new Red Meat Team can discuss options for calf rearing, see page 2 for contact details.

Black and white veal opportunity



After a successful appeal for interested farmers to become involved in producing contract reared veal earlier this year, there is now an opportunity for more farmers to join the group.

Veal production for the UK market has been steadily growing in recent years, but as the demand is still limited, it is important not to flood the market with young bulls before a reliable outlet has been secured.

Dorset based Tarrant Valley Livestock have developed a successful system which supplies British veal using B&W calves to selected retail customers and delivers an attractive outlet for dairy farmers.

Tarrant Valley Livestock have negotiated a contract for their high welfare British veal programme, available to dairy farmers with a level calving profile within a two hour haul of Bodmin, which offers a real opportunity to sell B&W bull calves to good advantage.

The key points to this offer are:

- **Animals must achieve 125kgs+ dead weight at under 8 months of age**
- **Farms will need to be Red Tractor and Freedom Foods accredited**

You will become an exclusive supplier to a market leading and award winning brand, which in turn could offer a significant addition to your farm's bottom line, utilisation of existing skill sets, maximisation of on farm resources and a quick turnaround (animals usually off farm by 7 months).

If you would like further information or to arrange a visit to your farm, please contact Marcus Williams on 07802 581400 or Lachie Maclachlan.

TB Advisory Service

New TB measures

From 1 October 2014 English legislation changed such that the remaining TB testing exemption for cattle moved between holdings that are part of the same Sole Occupancy Authority (SOA) has been removed. The default position is that cattle moving between holdings within a SOA must be pre-movement tested. However, pre-movement testing is not required for moves between holdings within the SOA which are within a 10 mile radius of the main holding within the SOA.

- Such movements are permitted under the terms of a general licence issued by Defra.
- Cattle keepers do not need to apply for a licence.
- Defra has published a general licence on www.gov.uk that permits movements within certain SOAs (those that only include holdings within 10 miles of the main premises) without a pre-movement test.

If just one of the holdings within your SOA is beyond 10 miles you need to pre-movement test all cattle moving between any holdings within the SOA. To overcome this problem, you can choose to de-register from the SOA the holding that is beyond the 10 mile limit, which would mean that you can continue to move cattle between the remaining SOA holdings without pre-movement testing. Please note, having a SOA does not affect cattle movement reporting requirements.

New SOAs cannot be created as the moratorium on the establishment of new SOAs, which was introduced in July 2012, remains in place.

The Defra information note can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/bovine-tb-information-notes

Changes to biosecurity requirements for AFUs without grazing and isolation units

Gaps at the sides and under doors and walls should now be no greater than 7.5cm and must not be able to be enlarged by digging or chewing. This was previously 10cm.

Existing Approved Finishing Units (AFUs) need to comply with the new conditions at their annual inspection. AFU operators should consider making any necessary alterations prior to their annual inspection.

Changes to conditions of approval for TB isolation units

Since 30 September 2014, new TB isolation units need to be registered as a new CPH and must be separate from the remainder of the existing holding.

Ending the practice of de-restricting parts of TB restricted holdings

AHVLA no longer allows the partial de-restriction of TB-breakdown holdings.

- Movement restrictions will apply to all cattle on the holding for the duration of the breakdown i.e. until all the animals



have achieved Officially TB Free (OTF) status and the restrictions are lifted on the holding.

- New breakdowns have not been considered for partial de-restriction since June 2014, as the cattle could not achieve the necessary two consecutive clear tests before 1 October 2014.
- AHVLA will honour decisions, made before 1 October 2014, to partially de-restrict existing TB affected herds.

For more information, see southwest-tbadvice.co.uk

Combating fluke in beef cattle



FOR ADVICE ON FLUKICIDES, PLEASE SPEAK TO AN SQP AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH OR A VET

Liver fluke, once confined to the wetter, western parts of the UK, is now endemic across all areas – and costing the beef industry around £10 million a year because infected cattle are slower to finish and carcasses are damaged too. In fact, 16 per cent of cattle ailments diagnosed by vets last year were liver fluke.

Infection can be prevented either by avoiding wet pastures, where the snail, which is critical to the infection cycle thrives, or through dosing with an appropriate treatment. A recent report confirms that carcase contamination was 19.81% in 2010 generating an estimated loss of £1.225 million – and will have become worse since. Therefore, livestock farmers should seriously consider treating their stock this autumn.

Autumn Fluke Treatment – getting it right

There are several options available for treating beef cattle for fluke and worms over the autumn period; careful consideration needs to go into which is most appropriate for each individual farm. We have been lucky to have an exceedingly dry September. However, this does not mean that fluke will not be an issue this autumn/winter. The most recent NADIS parasite forecast suggests that there remains a high risk of fluke throughout the whole of Scotland, and moderate risk in most of England. With production losses due to fluke estimated to cost £25 per head of cattle in affected areas, it's important to time treatments carefully and choose the best products to suit your requirements.

Please note that these treatments are recommended for use in beef cattle.

Seek advice from a vet or animal health advisor for treatment of dairy cattle.

Other products and combinations are available. Each farm has its own individual risks for roundworms and fluke, it is therefore important to work closely with vets and SQPs to find the most suitable option for your needs. If you would like further advice on parasite control of livestock contact your local MVF SQP or Molecare Vet.

Ivermectin plus Triclabendazole (Molemec Pour-on and Tribex)

Treats	Gutworms, lungworms, external parasites, ALL stages of fluke.
Pros	Treatment of all the above parasites including fluke from two weeks. This combination will ensure that all stages of fluke within the animal at time of treatment are killed. Particularly useful as an autumn treatment, or an option for use on day of housing.
Cons	Two products required. Risk of triclabendazole resistance building up if overused.
	Cost per dose for a 600kg animal £1.61



Ivermectin and Clorsulon (Molemec Super injection)

Treats	Roundworms, lungworms, external parasites, adult fluke.
Pros	One single injection. Persistent activity against gut and lung worms; beneficial for treatment of young stock in their first grazing season.
Cons	Only treats adult fluke, therefore treatment at housing needs to be delayed until 8 weeks after housing. Or give one dose at housing to treat gut worms and adult fluke and another 8 weeks later to treat the remaining fluke.
	Cost per dose for a 600kg animal £2.18



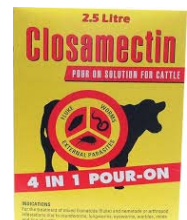
Levamisole and Triclabendazole (Combinex)

Treats	Lungworms, gut worm and ALL stages of fluke.
Pros	Treatment of the above parasites with a single oral drench. Treats all stages of fluke down to two weeks with a single oral drench.
Cons	Is not effective against overwintering gut worms in cattle (encysted Ostertagia)
	Cost per dose for a 600kg animal £2.30



Ivermectin and Closantel (Closamectin Pour-On)

Treats	Treats gutworms, lungworms, external parasites, adult and late immature fluke.
Pros	Treatment of all of the above parasites. Easy application.
Cons	Only treats 95% of fluke from 7 weeks (late immature). Has no proven activity against early stages of fluke. Therefore, risk of fluke in early stages of lifecycle being 'missed' by treatment. Treatment at housing needs to be delayed by 7 weeks.
	Cost per dose for a 600kg animal £4.52



Housing cattle

With animals indoors during the winter period, keeping buildings and their environment clean is important. Mole Valley Farmers can supply a wide range of products for this, from the humble squeegee, to yard scrapers, cubicle mats and flooring.

Many products can be collected ex branch, whilst others such as lime or sand are delivered direct to farm, either in bulk or bagged.



Squeegees

Galvanised, winged squeegee/yard cleaners with rubber blade for removing water and other liquid debris from concrete, tile, brick and aggregate

Straight squeegee



18"

£8.90

MVF CODE 02026

Curved squeegee



26"

£16.30

MVF CODE 3137

Winged yard cleaner/squeegee



24"

£17.25

MVF CODE 24090

Squeegee blades

- 26" £3.95
MVF CODE 3134
- 30" £4.10
MVF CODE 3135
- 34" £4.35
MVF CODE 3136



Squeegee handle

60" x 1 1/8"



£3.53

MVF CODE 8240

IAE yard scraper



5'3" x 7'6" variable positions,
reversible pull/push
HD rubber blade
Fits Cat 1&2 3 point linkage

£607.65

MVF CODE 58230

Mayo mattress

6' x 4' x 44mm
High degree of comfort
and easy to fit



£60.95

MVF CODE 63567

Ram-Track rubber surfacing



Rubber surface Ram-Track, an alternative to individual cow mattresses, plus bulk chalk or natural bedding sand can be ordered from Mole Valley Plus and are available delivered to farm.

For more information, call Mole Valley Plus on 01769 576201

Biolime H90



Biolime H90 is hydrated lime (calcium hydroxide) specially made for agriculture and is an approved biocide. The product creates a stable alkali environment which will inhibit bacterial growth, improve biosecurity and reduce odours.

- Kills bacteria
- Prevents mastitis
- Reduces hoof infection/lameness
- Improves hygiene in calf pens
- No surface preparation

Hydramax Lime

Containing carbonates and oxides of lime, Nadins Hydramax significantly improves hygiene. Effectively controlling eColi and aiding the prevention of mastitis and digital dermatitis, it is highly absorbent, free flowing powder which is an economical drying agent, thereby improving the environment for both livestock and stockmen

- Conveniently packaged
- Easy to use
- Low dust levels
- 100% natural



Biolime H90 and Hydramax Lime available from Mole Valley Feed Solutions, Lifton Mill 01566 780261. Minimum order 1 tonne pallet, packed in 25kg bags, delivered to farm



Care of in-lamb ewes

*Becca Vallis BVetMed, MRCVS
Molecare FarmVets*



It is vital that ewes remain in the best of health throughout pregnancy. Below are six points to consider over the coming months to minimise losses and maximise lambing percentage.

1) Minimise stress

Management, environmental and nutritional stress can cause resorption or abortion at any stage during pregnancy; it will also make ewes more susceptible to diseases such as pasteurellosis. Ewes will undoubtedly need to be moved, yarded and handled several times over the five month period, it's important to keep stress to a minimum during these times. Any changes made to feeding should be done gradually.

2) The benefits of scanning

Using the results from scanning your flock will provide multiple benefits to the health of ewes and subsequently their lambs. Ewes can then be fed and managed accordingly to ensure adequate foetal growth and maintenance of ewe condition. Plans can also be made for fostering lambs at lambing time. High levels of barren ewes indicates a problem with fertility that will need to be addressed, this could be due to the health of the ewe leading up to tupping, the health of the rams, or may indicate an infectious disease such as toxoplasmosis. Discussing this with your vets and obtaining a diagnosis will help decide upon management changes for coming years.

3) Regular body condition scoring

Body condition scoring your ewes when handling for other events such as scanning and vaccinating will enable management decisions to be made. Ewes in poor condition can be separated and fed accordingly.

Between 30 and 90 days of pregnancy, ewes mated at target BCS can only afford to lose up to 0.5 of a BCS (on a scale of 1-5). It is during this time that the placenta undergoes rapid development. Overfeeding at this stage may have an effect on placental development and could contribute towards problems at lambing due to excess condition. Underfeeding results in ewes lambing in poor BCS and therefore will affect the health of the lamb.

	Hill ewes	Upland ewes	Lowland ewes
Tupping	2.5	3	3.5
Mid Pregnancy	2	2.5	3
Lambing	2	2.5	3

Taken from EBLEX Sheep BRP Manual 12

4) Nutrition

Feeding the in-lamb ewe is a huge topic, beyond the scope of this article. Many considerations need to be taken into account. These include forage analysis, nutritional value of concentrates, condition score, scanning results and housing availability. Blood tests during pregnancy can be used to assess parameters such as protein and energy levels, as well as trace element status. Results allow informed decisions to be made on both feeding and use of supplements.

5) Timing of vaccinations

Vaccinating against clostridial disease during pregnancy will not only provide ongoing protection for the ewe, but also protect the lambs in their first few weeks of life via the colostrum. The timing of these injections is extremely important to ensure adequate levels of antibodies are present in the colostrum. Each year, all in lamb ewes should be vaccinated between four and six weeks pre-lambing. Vaccinating closer to lambing will not allow enough time to build up adequate levels of antibody, and will also provide unnecessary levels of stress at this vital time. Remember that when introducing new ewes or ewe lambs to the flock it is important that they have an initial course of two vaccinations four weeks apart to ensure immunity to clostridial disease.

6) Record keeping

Keeping good records this year will allow management changes to be made next year, if necessary. Often small tweaks to the management of ewes can have a huge impact on productivity.

Working closely with vets, nutritionists and animal health advisors will go a long way towards ensuring ewes remain in the best of health throughout pregnancy. A comprehensive health plan allows for a strategic approach to flock health throughout the year and early intervention when problems arise will minimise detrimental effects.

Molecare Farm Vets are based at South Molton and Frome branches of Mole Valley Farmers.

All branches have SQPs for health advice and our Farm Sales team are available for nutritional advice, call the FeedLine or see Contacts on page 2.



Organic feed prospects for this winter

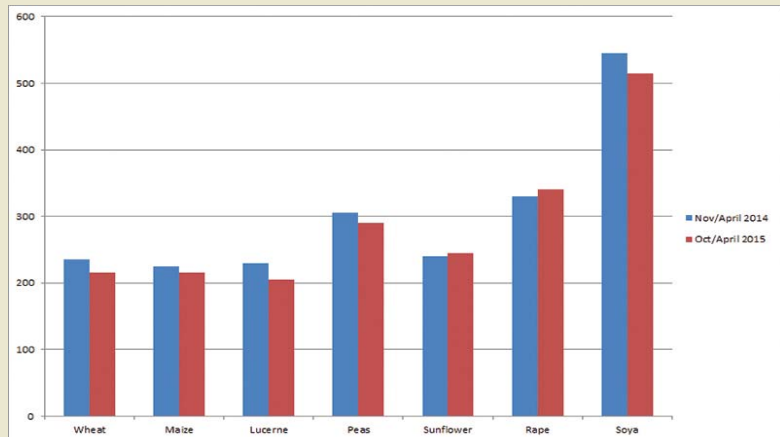
Nigel Mapstone, Feed Nutritionist (Organics)

After a good harvest for cereals this summer, we approach the winter with optimism for a steady supply. The market has followed the conventional cereal price, but not to the same degree, as usual few UK farmers want to sell when we need to buy so European cereals fill the gap, at least for the early winter and this year there is a larger premium for organic maize imports from Eastern Europe. The protein supply once again has proved more of a problem. Conventional proteins have not been so quick to drop and the wet spring had not been good for home grown peas and beans, so imported lupins will feature with sunflower and rape dropping by only about £10, soya is available but relatively expensive.

As the Ukraine is still the main source of European organic feed raw materials, the political turmoil is still a major factor in price and availability

When rationing with organic bi-products such as sunflower, rape and soya, it must be remembered that their nutritional specifications will differ from conventional. Conventionally oil is extracted from seeds using chemicals to get the maximum from the seed but organic oil is expelled by less efficient crushing of the seeds for oil production which leaves more nutrients in the expeller.

Organic Raw Material Analysis						
Material	Oil	Protein	Fibre	Ash	MER	MER
	as fed	as fed	as fed	as fed	as fed	DM
Org Rape Exp	8.5	37.5	9.5	6.0	10.5	11.5
Org Sunflower Exp	9.6	30.0	19.0	5.5	11.6	12.3
Org Soya Exp	8.0	43.0	7.0	6.0	12.9	14.0



**A range of organic raw materials are available in bulk from Mole Valley Feed Solutions
straights office - telephone 0845 602 7321**

Maize varieties for 2015



*Graham Ragg
MVF Senior
Agronomist and
Product Manager
reviews the 2014
harvest and looks
ahead to the 2015
maize crop*

The 2014 maize harvest has been one of the best in the last 20 years. Improvements in maize breeding and an almost perfect year for growing the crop combined to produce fresh weight yields between 15 to 25 tonnes/acre. The harvest was largely completed two weeks earlier than last year, in dry conditions, leaving plenty of time to drill grass or winter cereals. An almost perfect scenario.

It is important to analyse the silage now to make sure the ration is fully balanced to maximize the full potential which having maize in the diet undoubtedly offers. Early indications are that the desired 30% to 33% starch and similar dry matters have been achieved, but with the high yield of stem and leaf produced this year and the temptation to cut perhaps a bit too early on some farms, analysing to make sure you have the desired levels is essential. Maize silage which has been ensiled for a few months will be worth analysing again as it will have matured and enhanced in feed value.

In a good season, such as 2014, variety choice is perhaps less critical than in an average or poor growing year. In years where conditions are cold during establishment, with low heat units, or perhaps wet and windy years, where disease pressure is high, then the choice of variety is much more important. The agronomic features of the variety are much more critical than considering other parameters such as cell wall digestibility. It is no good having the best potential feed value variety if it falls over, is disease susceptible or matures too late to harvest.

If the breeders can select varieties that fulfil all the agronomic requirements and then go on to develop varieties which have potentially more feed value, it makes sense. However, to achieve maximum feed value, you still need to consider early vigour, yield potential and early harvest. Other traits to look for are starch % and dry matter %, which means it is essential to pick a variety which is early enough to reach full maturity in the area and conditions it is grown in. Provided this can be achieved, then fine tuning your choice to take into account cell wall digestibility of the leaf and stover of the plant could be worth looking at. If the variety is better in digestibility, this may produce a higher amount of available nutrients for livestock production.

Furthermore, it is important to remember that the choice of the top varieties available will give no more than 10% differences in yield and starch levels and the differences in cell wall digestibility are often very small. Differences in yield and feed quality caused by crop nutrition, weed, disease and pest control could have much bigger influences on the success of the crop and should not be overlooked.

Below is a chart, plotting some of the best varieties for growers who might have different aims when selecting their maize variety. We offer a large range, selected from the main seed breeders in the UK; Limagrain, KWS, Grainseeds and Pioneer. Different varieties are more suitable for under plastic, grain maize or anaerobic digester plants.

FORAGE VARIETIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Early Harvest Required | High Yield per Acre |
| Kaspian - Very Early | Aurelius - Early |
| Keen - Very Early | Kougar - Medium |
| Yukon - Early | Ambrossini - Late |
| High Cell Wall Digestibility | Maximum Starch Content |
| Activate - Very Early | Yukon - Early |
| Ambition - Medium | Ambition - Medium |

**Contact your MVF Crop/Feed
Nutritionist or Seed line
01769 576232**

Forage into the future



01769 576405



Hugh Frost, Product and Technical Manager

Those who are 'Squaring up' to the future are 'Measuring up' and 'Joining up'

Whilst visiting livestock farms recently, a common theme emerges; almost all are keen to maximise their forage production, in order to maximise their profits. Not so common are the approaches taken to achieve this.

Although the misquotation of James Levine *'Evolution, not Revolution'*, is often invoked in agricultural circles, relying on evolution by itself does not seem to be enough for top grassland producers who prefer more rapid changes to adapt to modern farm business requirements.

Another quotation to set the scene, more accurate this time; *"People are very open-minded about new things – as long as they're exactly like the old ones"* (Charles F. Kettering).

Rather than just seeing where evolution takes them, or waiting till enforced revolution pushes them into the unknown, the forward thinking farmers of today, determined to be the farmers of tomorrow, are instead creating their own series of mini-revolutions.

Successful grass producers of the present are currently preparing to be even better producers of the future by 'squaring up' to the task then benchmark their progress and learning from their success and failures and those of others. This is not being achieved by just using conventional performance statistics but by strongly questioning why and what is being measured in their livestock businesses, then constructively sharing this information with like-minded, progressive farmers.

Measuring up

Without knowing the performance data or assessment parameters of any enterprise, it cannot be evaluated properly, which is essential to progression. So that is the starting point, with the next crucial step of measuring what matters to the farm business, then recording and monitoring these figures frequently.

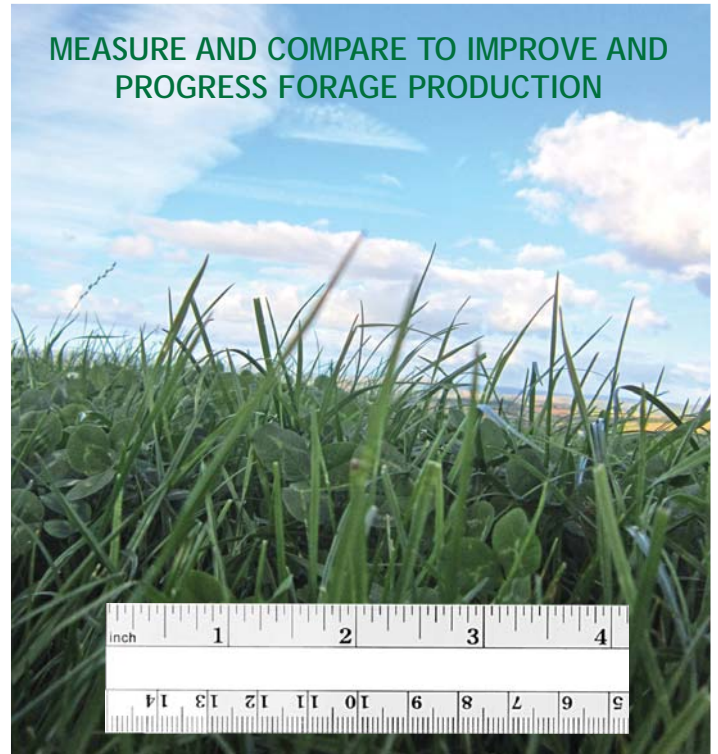
Traditionally, grass yields and livestock margins have been used as primary indicators, with other parameters such as quality as secondary. Less consideration has been given to measuring the output in relation to the main limiting factor to the business or the possible expected limitations of the future. The resources that are often most limiting are soil and water factors, so production of the highest quality forage per unit area, feeding the optimised head of stock in the shortest time period is essential, then deciding what exactly is measured depends on the farm.

Every farm and business is different, so the assessment criteria can vary according to 'their' bottlenecks to business progression. These criteria can be determined more easily once the strengths and weaknesses of the business now, and in the future, are identified and quantified.

Joining Up

After measuring their performance data, it is very apparent that the most successful and sustainable farm businesses are then discussing their ideas and results with other farm businesses which are

seeking to do the same. There are an increasing number of professional farmer groups, especially around forage production, that are meeting regularly to share ideas and learn from each other.



Discussion groups meeting in a pub or village hall are increasing and taking on new identities as the urgency for change to stay ahead of markets and legislation becomes more apparent.

As well as these traditional discussion groups, new ones are being formed using electronic networks, not only using social media, but also sharing forage production figures over the internet, using specific software programs.

These types of 'joining up' networks and discussion groups not only allows farmers to benefit from others' knowledge, but crucially, provides the support and confidence to go ahead and start making their own mini-revolutions, to get ahead of evolution and greatly reduce the risk of induced revolution.

Finally, our Crop Nutritionists are actively seeking to assist any farmers in their forage requirements of the future and are setting out to do this in two ways; firstly by establishing our own technical forum within MVF for a 2025 perspective; secondly, and more immediately, by working with interested networking groups of forage producers to make their land more productive and their forage of higher quality. We are currently participating with several farmer forums to achieve this so please contact us if we can assist your group, or help set one up with you.

Sharon Gibbons

15.11.1972 – 20.8.2014

It is with deep sadness that we announce that Sharon Gibbons passed away on 20th August 2014.

Sharon worked for Mole Valley Farmers from October 1991 and throughout her employment was a valued and loyal member of the team, working originally at Crediton Mill, transferring to our Teignmouth production site and even did a part-time weekend job at MVF Cullompton for a number of years. Sharon was extremely hardworking, a joy to work with and a good friend to many people. She will be sadly missed by her friends and colleagues across the business.



Preparing for calving – thinking nutrition

by Dr Jessica Cooke, Volac International

On average, 14.5% of live-born heifers fail to even reach first calving, so every calf born needs gold star attention from day one to help reduce these losses.

A calf's ability to convert feed into growth rapidly falls from 50% during the milk feeding period to just 9% by 13 months of age. The pre-weaning period is therefore one of the best opportunities to maximise growth.

1 Colostrum

Colostrum not only helps to protect the young calf against disease, but it is also important for growth and development. Furthermore, recent findings suggest that colostrum could help to improve the digestibility of subsequent milk feeds.

Action: Check the colostrum's quality with a colostrometer. Remember, a much higher volume of poor quality colostrum will have to be fed to offer the same level of disease protection as a smaller quantity of good quality colostrum. A good level of cleanliness and hygiene is vital; bacteria can double every 20 minutes if colostrum is left at room temperature.

2 Milk replacer

Milk replacer, together with calf starter, provide energy and protein to support target growth rate, you need to feed sufficient. Remember, grams of feed in will determine grams of growth out. If you target 0.7kg per day of growth, a calf will need at least 700g milk powder per day plus about 700g calf starter.

Action: Choose the right milk replacer for your system - if feeding calves a higher amount of milk powder for increased growth, then milk replacers with a higher protein content (26%) and lower fat content (16%), Heiferlac for example will help promote lean tissue growth and limit body fat. Alternatively, consider Mole Valley Farmers Multistart with its 22% protein and 17% oil content.

Calf milk replacers vary enormously – the type and quality of ingredients, level of protein and fat, will determine their digestibility in the young calf. Always purchase a replacer from a trusted supplier. Previous calf performance gives the best guarantee of its quality

Topics in forthcoming newsletters will include 'What's in my calf milk replacer', 'To invest or not invest in a computerised feeding system' and 'Best practice for optimum performance'.



Multistart calf milk replacer

A complete replacement for cows' milk, Multistart is ideal for once and twice a day feeding and is suitable for use in buckets and cold ad-lib feeding systems and some computerised calf feeders and automatic feeders requiring an instant type milk powder.

20kg bags

Available from all MVF branches



Heiferlac calf milk replacer



Direct delivery to farm 20kg bags

Heiferlac is designed for use as a complete replacement for cows' milk. Suitable for bucket feeding, cold ad-lib feeding as well as some automatic feeding machines.

Calf rearing equipment



Wydale 5 teat calf feeder

Other sizes available

£171.⁵⁰

MVF CODE 7656

Calf bucket

£1.⁸⁵

MVF CODE 56277



Volac Colostrometer

£21.⁰⁵

MVF CODE 49024



Molecare calf colostrum

200g

£12.⁵⁵

MVF CODE 61225



Calf milk whisk

£6.²⁵

MVF CODE 13143



800g

£31.⁴⁵

MVF CODE 61226

FARMING

Mole Insurance Services

Insurance packages for farmers

Your farm is your livelihood, so it's absolutely vital you have appropriate levels of protection in place. Mole Insurance Services work with leading farm insurers, offering a wide range of policy covers and also manage any claims on your behalf.

They make it a priority to thoroughly understand your requirements to ensure the insurance is tailored specifically to your business needs. To simplify the process, Mole Insurance Services usually offer one policy, with one renewal date. Cover can include:

- Farm property
- Business interruption
- Livestock
- Farm liabilities, including environmental impairment liability
- Personal accident and sickness
- Farm property in transit
- Machinery breakdown and statutory inspection
- Uncollected milk
- Solar panels, wind turbines, biomass boilers, anaerobic digesters
- Farm motor

Team member focus

Ken Doig, is our Farming Account Manager based in Somerset. Ken started his agricultural life on a 50,000 acre beef farm in Kenya, before joining NFU Mutual as Senior Agent in their Bridgwater office, which he went on to manage for 30 years. Ken's knowledge of the farming and insurance industry is first class, and his expertise has already benefited a number of farmers.

Ken said: "Arranging comprehensive insurance programmes for farmers is my area of expertise, and I'd welcome the opportunity to review your current arrangements."



- farm • smallholding
- commercial motors
- public liability
- horse and equine • home
- car • travel • pets

Mole Valley Farmers Ltd is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Pavey Group Ltd. Mole Insurance Services is a trading style of Pavey Group Ltd which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for insurance and risk management only. (Registration No. 308106). Pavey Group Ltd (Registered in England No. 3419086) is wholly owned by Pavey Group Holdings Ltd (Registered in England No. 02979493). Registered address: 50 The Terrace Torquay, TQ1 1DD.

request a quote today 0845 265 7951 www.moleinsurance.co.uk



WIN
1 tonne of wood pellets
 Win one tonne of wood pellets in our free prize draw. Entry forms can be found at all MVF branches or below, just complete it and hand it to a member of staff or pop it in the post. The closing date is 30 November. Good luck!

Free Prize Draw



Entry Form

Complete your details below for your chance to win with moleenergy

Complete this form in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS

Name

Address:

Postcode: Email:

Account No: Mobile No:

Interested in: Solar PV Solar Thermal Biomass Wind turbines

Ground source heat pumps Air source heat pumps

Please tick here if you do not wish to receive further mailings or special offers from moleenergy

Please return this completed form to: moleenergy competition
 1 West Hill, Pathfields Business Park
 South Molton EX36 3BS

Future Farming Academy Claire Flower reports

I finished my last FFA article by briefly mentioning how the companies I visited had become more successful by entering international markets. Well, the following week I was fortunate enough to be invited by Alvis Bros to the Opportunity Korea marketing event at Leigh Court in Bristol. I spent an extremely interesting morning learning how to export to South Korea, the world's 12th largest economy. Presentations were given by the British Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, the CEO of the British Chamber of Commerce in Korea and the Korean Trade Association.



As well as spending time in the marketing and accounts departments, I also completed a week in the piggery where

Alvis Bros finish over 16,000 pigs in batches throughout the year under the Red Tractor Assurance scheme. The pigs arrive after weaning and are fed on a diet consisting mainly of whey permeate (from the cheese factory), bought-in cereal and soyabean meal, until they are sent to slaughter at around 110kg.

This week has been a little different again as I have been helping Farmer Nick with FarmLink. We visited schools in the surrounding area with the aim of educating children about farming, food production, healthier eating and the environment. The lessons are planned in line with the National Curriculum and the children seem to really enjoy them, as they are very interactive. During the spring, summer and autumn terms the schools can even organise trips to the farm for a day where there are loads of lessons to choose from.

Every other Tuesday I have been spending time on industrial experience days with the other agricultural businesses that are part of the Future Farmers Group. The first for this month took me to Coombe Farm, near Crewkerne, which is a very large organic dairy farming enterprise with three of their own farms, plus the management of a milk pool for 24 others.

For my second experience day this month I travelled around with Crop Nutritionist, Clive Bethell, from Mole Valley Forage Services. I learnt how to take soil samples, how to understand the analysis sheets and what measures could be taken to rectify any problems. I was surprised to learn how much



Claire soil sampling under the guidance of Clive Bethell, Mole Valley Forage Services

difference incorrect pH makes to the availability of nutrients in the soil. For example, putting the standard 20:10:10 fertiliser onto ground with a pH of 5.5 (instead of the ideal 7-7.5) would mean that only 15:5:8 would be available to the plant.

I've got the POWER!! Boost your Solar PV without costly upgrades

moleenergy is breaking new ground in Solar PV provision. Traditionally users were limited to installing an array that was sized specifically to the local grid capacity. This could mean only being allowed to install a fraction of your electricity requirements or paying out for costly grid upgrades. But this may no longer be the case.



moleenergy's preferred installers MyPower have successfully fitted load limiters with the agreement of the district network operator. These load limiters enable the customer to install much larger arrays to meet their electricity needs without the risk of overloading the grid and without the requirement to pay for a costly upgrade. In effect this means you can reduce your electricity costs whilst still being paid the generation tariff. You will not however be able to export above the capacity of the local grid.

To beef up your existing array call the Moleenergy team today 01769 575674

Stock up for winter

As we slip into winter, the advice from moleenergy to those of you with a wood heating pellet requirement is to 'stock up early.'

Contract and monitoring options for MVF Members

We believe we can offer very favourable prices to members and if you have had your installation through us, the prices for bagged pellets is even lower, proving a considerable cost saving over the lifetime of your boiler. Bulk blown prices can be obtained on an individual postcode basis and there are contract and monitoring options available to members, which can guarantee delivery as and when needed during the winter months when demand is high and deliveries can be delayed as a result.

Small bag deliveries and one tonne dumpy bags should be readily available on a 3-5 day delivery period. If you have storage facilities then buying multiple pallets can also save money. 10kg bags are also now available to buy at your local branch.

With December and the Christmas shutdowns just around the corner, we would also like to advise ordering your December deliveries in advance to avoid being without heating pellets over the festive period.

Don't forget a boiler service

Remember also to check the running hours of your boiler as moleenergy would advise having it serviced before it has to work at its hardest during the winter months.

For Biomass advice or to order pellets, call the moleenergy team on 01769 575674.

WIN 1 TONNE OF WOOD PELLETS

Enter our competition on page - or pick up an entry form at your local branch

For more information, please call the moleenergy team on
01769 575674

Offers for November

**SAVE
£200
OFF RRP**

Lister Liberty
battery clipper
delux pack



Includes: Lister Liberty 12V clipper (inc blades & accessories);
Lister Libretto 12V Super Trimmer (inc standard & wide blades);
Power pack (with belt and charger).
rrp £518 inc vat.

£258.³³

MVF CODE 1084258

**SAVE
20%**

Virkon S
disinfectant
5kg



Normal Price : £38.70

£30.⁹⁶

MVF CODE 25863



**1/2
PRICE
GLOVES**

Stihl MS181
petrol chainsaw

31.8cc engine,
14" bar



£187.⁰⁰

MVF CODE 41390



Half price
chainsaw gloves

£12.²⁴

Normal Price : £22.48 MVF CODES 1014715-8

**SAVE
20%**

Professional
forestry helmet

Complete with
wrap around
mesh visor and
ear defenders.



Normal Price : £29.20

£23.³⁶

MVF CODE 60952

Offers are valid for November or while stocks last

**SAVE
£150
OFF RRP**

Lister Star
mains clipper
delux pack



Includes:
Lister Star mains clipper.
Lister Legato+ cordless trimmer
(inc accessories).
Lister clipping holdall.
250ml clipping oil.
rrp £401.00 inc vat.

£204.¹⁷

MVF CODE 1084259

**SAVE
£10**



18L

Normal price
£78.30

£68.³⁰

MVF CODE 19109

**SAVE
£5**

Sorgene 5
disinfectant



5L

Normal price
£31.35

£26.³⁵

MVF CODE 9608

**FREE
BAIT BOX
worth £5.55**

Tomcat 2
rat bait blocks
or pellets



8kg blocks

10kg pellets

£56.⁶⁵

MVF CODE 25862

£56.⁷⁰

MVF CODE 45121

**GREAT
VALUE**

Heiniger Xplorer
cordless clipper



Includes: 2 sets of
blades and a free spare
battery worth over £80
inc vat.

£300.⁰⁰

MVF CODE 1083227

Product highlights this November

Draper electric space heater



- Two settings, 2.8kW and 1.4kW
- Adjustable temperature control

£66.35

MVF CODE 58829

Draper propane space heater

- 40k BTU (12Kw)
- Supplied with gas regulator



while stocks last
(an alternative product may be stocked in some stores)

£84.00

MVF CODE 58828

Draper diesel space heater

- 102.4k BTU (30Kw)
- Complete with thermostat



while stocks last
(an alternative product may be stocked in some stores)

£328.00

MVF CODE 58827

Fire extinguisher

suitable for fires involving wood, paper and textiles



£32.00

MVF CODE 28910

Fire blanket

1m x 1m



12 months warranty

£12.90

MVF CODE 28906

SAVE 20%

Stanley XL pro organiser

while stocks last



Normal price: £18.75

£15.00

MVF CODE 33427

Fire extinguishers dry powder



6kg

£31.60

MVF CODE 59597



2kg

£20.95

MVF CODE 28909



1kg

£16.65

MVF CODE 28908

suitable for fires involving wood, paper, textiles, flammable liquids, gaseous fires and live electrical equipment

Fire extinguisher CO₂



Suitable for fires involving flammable liquids and live electrical equipment.

£36.00

MVF CODE 28911

Offer available for the month of November or whilst stocks last.

Motoring

Category B & E trailer training available through Mole Valley Plus



Land Rover Experience West Country, based near Honiton, are constantly developing their portfolio of specialist training courses and are offering special prices for Mole Valley Farmers members booking these.

They have recently added a B + E Trailer Training course for drivers with licences issued since 1st January 1997, for whom it is necessary to pass a test in order to be allowed to tow most trailers on public highways.

The course is run by a Land Rover Experience Trailer Instructor, with emphasis on the Driving Standards Agency examination requirements and includes:

- A vehicle and trailer safety question and answer session
- Coupling and uncoupling practice
- General on road driving techniques and hazard perception
- DSA type reversing exercises.

This course gives an excellent grounding and understanding of the requirements of the test. It also provides candidates with a knowledge of how much more practice or tuition may be required (and in what areas) before enrolling for the examination.

The company can also arrange the test at your local DSA centre.

To book a B+E Trailer Course with exclusive member discount, or for more information on other courses available, please contact Land Rover Experience West Country on 01404 549 333 and quote your Mole Valley Farmers membership number.



mole valley plus
adding member benefits

01769 576201

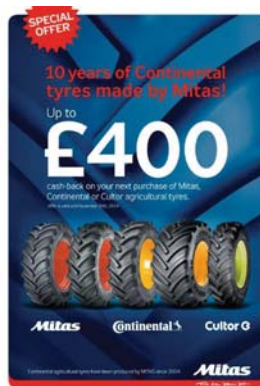
Winter agricultural tyres

Use your Mole Valley Farmers Membership to get your agricultural tyres set for the winter and make the most of up to £400 cashback!

When purchasing two agricultural tyres of Mitas, Continental or Cultor brand during November you will be eligible for a loaded gift card redeemable at Mastercard outlets. Simply visit one of our tyre partnerships including ATS, North Devon Tyres and Prot tyre, book to your Mole Valley Farmers account and ask for a receipt.

Contact the team at Mole Valley Plus and we will send you a form to fill out to redeem your cash back.

For further details and to receive your cash back form please call the Mole Valley Plus office on 01769 575201



Booster cables

It is important that when purchasing a battery booster cable that they are 100% copper. Cheaper cables may have a copper outer and an aluminium inner thus making them less efficient and ineffective for starting vehicles.



description	amp	cable	price	MVF Code
Insulated clamps	200	2.8m (10mm)	£14.20	49598
	320	3.0m (25mm)	£22.20	49599
Brass clamps	500	3.0m (25mm)	£31.60	49600
	700	4.5m (35mm)	£52.70	49601



Get ready for winter motoring



Car ice scraper

83p

MVF CODE 53367

Screenwash Concentrate 5 litres



£3.95

MVF CODE 62158



Screenwash Ready to use 5 litres

£3.32

MVF CODE 62159

De-icer 500ml "Prestone" Trigger



£1.55

MVF CODE 1005798



De-icer 600ml aerosol

85p

MVF CODE 1005797

Antifreeze All Engine 5 litres



£12.75

MVF CODE 8988

Prices exclude VAT

Brookridge Timber



01769 576201

Mono pitch timber framed buildings

FREE PARTITION UPGRADE

For the month of November Mole Valley Plus have sourced a mono-pitch timber framed building of exceptional quality with an exclusive Mole Valley Farmers special offer, allowing members to get a free of charge upgrade to one partition for each bay worth £150 each!

These buildings come flat packed for self-assembly and are complete with a detailed instruction manual. There is planning assistance available with scaled drawings produced if needed.

The buildings have box profile steel roof sheets with one roof light per bay. They can have a building depth of up to 20ft span (excluding canopy) and come in standard bay widths of 15ft, 16ft and 20ft. All timbers are pressure treated and come with fully galvanised fixings.



FREE DELIVERY and INSTALLATION*

Ideal for smallholders

Orpington large chicken house

We are also offering free of charge delivery and installation of the Orpington chicken house within Dorset, Devon, Somerset and Cornwall*. The house starts at 8ft x 12ft which is suitable for 100 birds and can be extended to cater for more birds if needed. These houses are built to the highest specification and are designed to give your flock the best standards of living and at the same time will make life much easier for you throughout the winter.



To find out more about these offers, exclusively available to Mole Valley Farmers members, call our team at Mole Valley Plus today 01769 576201

MOLE VALLEY FORAGE SERVICES EVENT

Mole Valley Forage Services, in conjunction with The Exmoor Hill Farming Network, hosted an event at Cutcombe market, Wheddon Cross on the 4th September with over 50 farmers attending.

The day consisted of a discussion followed by a field walk. With the foundations of most farming enterprises being soil and grassland management, the discussion centred around and maximising their potential. Merits of the different equipment on display, dealing with compaction problems and increasing soil worm and microbial activity.

For more information, call Sandy Campbell on 07896 134948.



Readers gallery

Ben Rowland, Mole Valley Farmers' E-commerce Ops and Product Supervisor sent in this image of his herd of Devon cattle on a misty Autumn day.



Regular contributor, John Corsan's pictures this month are from the Mendip Ploughing Match held at Priddy Farm and of a very interesting tractor from 1919 an International Harvester TITAN 10-20 with a Howard No.7 ride on plough in action. The second picture is autumn cultivation of maize ground at Hemstitch Farm, Ashcott.



Protect your business

Rural crime is constantly in the headlines. Theft is not the only area for concern when it comes to protecting your livestock and property. The ability to monitor livestock during lambing, calving and foaling with remote visibility is extremely useful as well as keeping a wary eye on valuable pieces of machinery.

AgriCamera offer a solution to farm security and livestock monitoring issues with a wireless system that allows visibility from anywhere in the world (with internet access). The range is designed to be as modular as possible. This means purchasing an AgriCamera kit can start with just one camera, and the system can be extended in the future as more cameras are required.

The starter kit includes two wireless transmitters, a camera power supply, capable of powering four cameras, two 30m cables and an Interface Unit. The bullet camera is full HD, so will give high quality images. It has built in infra-red lighting, giving a clear picture in pitch

black conditions and also has a built in sound system, ideally suited to giving an overview of a particular area and perfectly suited for CCTV recording and security.

From your mobile phone app or a web browser you can remotely log in to your dashboard to view your cameras. The remotely controlled Ultra360 camera can be controlled and will zoom in to get more detail. Go on a virtual tour of your shed as if you were there! For more information, please log on to www.agricamera.co.uk

The systems can be purchased at your local branch or online and will be delivered directly to your home.

With the nights closing in, we have a number of floodlights available including LED 30W and 50W with PIR from £42 inc VAT. Please do ask if you have further requirements as we have access to a wide range of commercial floodlights, standard floodlights and lower wattage floods with PIR.

MVF Code	Name	Price
1085809	Starter Kit	£378.00
1085810	Bullet Camera	£322.80
1085811	Ultra 360 Camera	£1,200.00

AgriCamera starter kit



MVF CODE 1085809

£378.00

AgriCamera Bullet camera



MVF CODE 1085810

£322.80

All prices include VAT where applicable

PROFESSIONAL SECURITY SYSTEMS BY ELLARD SECURITY SYSTEMS



Ellard Security Systems offer members bespoke, professional security solutions.

Your farm and its outbuildings can be a large target for thieves, so help protect your farm and it's outbuildings with systems designed specifically to detect and deter criminals and unauthorised personnel from accessing your farm.

Monitoring water supplies and securing gates helps deter livestock theft. Movement detectors and CCTV help deter theft of farm vehicles and machinery.

The newest image technology is crystal clear and records images directly to a hard drive and these can be used for both security to monitor your stock and keep an eye of the everyday comings and goings of any busy farm or agricultural business.

If required, Ellard will visit your farm to assess the best options for your business.

Call our team today for further information.

01769 576201



mole valley plus
adding member benefits

Outdoor camera for security or wildlife

Ideal for game keepers



Camera Battery Security/Wildlife

£89.99

MVF CODE 1085612

This battery powered camera is ideal for instant deployment surveillance. The camera is a battery powered high resolution camera with an integral passive infrared sensor detector, secure digital card recording and black infra red illumination.

Once movement has been detected it will instantly record high quality images with time and date stamping for evidence purposes.

It can be used in all conditions, day or night, indoors and outdoors. Ideal for situations where traditional CCTV is not viable. Also an ideal wildlife camera. Uses 940nm black (invisible) LED sensors for covert surveillance.

PIR (10-12m range) or time lapse controlled. Up to 8MP images or HD720p video resolution. Infra red range of up to 15m. Comes with mounting strap, AV cables and USB, wall bracket and 4GB SD Card.

Hedging and woodland plants

Available online at molevalleyfarmers.com from November

This November sees the introduction of a brand new product range, available online from www.molevalleyfarmers.com/trees.

From this Autumn, you will be able to select and purchase all of your hedging and woodland plant material online from Mole Valley Farmers. Ensure the successful establishment of hedgerows and woodland by choosing bare root and native trees, hedging plants and plant protection products from our new range of over 200 lines across 70 plant species, delivered directly to you.

Why plant trees and hedging?

New hedge and woodland creation provides many benefits to landowners and the UK landscape overall. Consider your planting plans this season to:

- Create defining boundaries and divisions for fields
- Provide shelter to animals, game and crops
- Screen buildings to improve security and visual amenity
- Provide valuable habitats for wildlife
- Create conservation corridors and link small woodlands



Plan your planting

Careful planning is required in order to establish a healthy hedge or woodland.

With hedging, consideration should be given to existing ground vegetation and the general condition of the ground. This should be strimmed and any remaining weeds should be sprayed with a suitable herbicide prior to planting. This will provide a clean bed for the plants, improve the quality of the planting and reduce weed growth during the following spring and summer.

With woodland, consider the type and objectives of the planting as well as layout, spacing, species choice and protection.

Bare root trees and hedging should be planted when dormant - generally between mid-November and mid-April. Take care when



% Species	
Tree species 90%	
20%	Common Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)
10%	Common Alder (<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>)
10%	Small Leaved Lime (<i>Tilia cordata</i>)
10%	Green Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>)
10%	Wild Cherry (<i>Prunus avium</i>)
10%	Silver Birch (<i>Betula pendula</i>)
10%	Field Maple (<i>Acer campestre</i>)
10%	Aspen (<i>Populus tremula</i>)
Shrub species 10%	
2.5%	Hawthorn (<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>)
2.5%	Common Dogwood (<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>)
2.5%	Blackthorn (<i>Prunus spinosa</i>)
2.5%	Hazel (<i>Corylus avellana</i>)

handling bare-root plants, keeping them shaded, bagged and wind-protected to avoid drying out.

Choose your plants

A good woodland mix of species should incorporate trees (90%) and shrubs (10%).

Hedgerows should be made up of predominantly (70%) Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) with the balance (30%) of species coming from three of either Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*), Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*), Spindleberry (*Euonymus europaeus*) or Dogwood (*Cornus sanguinea*).

Choose plants of 40-60cm in height, available as seedlings or two year transplants. All plants are available barerooted except Holly.

Plant and protect your plants

New hedgerows should be planted in two staggered rows 30cm apart. Between four and six plants per metre should be planted. Minor species can be planted in small single species groups or randomly within larger blocks of Hawthorn. Notch-plant bare-rooted stock, insert the supporting cane approximately 25cm into the ground, alongside the plant, and wrap the clear spiral guard around both the plant and the cane. Pit-plant Holly and protect with a tree tube and supporting stake.

Woodland trees can be planted in rows at regular intervals, in curved lines, or randomly spaced. Planting in rows simplifies future maintenance of the woodland, especially if a mower is to be used to control vegetation. Species can be planted in single species blocks 2-3 metres apart or in mixed species randomly at greater spacing. Planting in groups

FARMING

encourages species to grow straight & tall, and promote self-pruning. Incorporate open ground where possible to encourage wildlife, amenity and access.

Plant protection is imperative where plants could be damaged by browsing animals. Tubex tree protection products provide shelters and guards with the benefit of an enhanced microclimate to encourage growth as well as protecting against accidental herbicide drift.

Tree shelter choice		
Damaging agent	Shelter heights	Stake height
Vole	200mm	n/a
Rabbit	600mm	750mm
Hare	750mm	900mm
Roe Deer/Muntjac	1200mm	1500mm
Fallow Deer	1500mm	1800mm



Take care of your new planting

When planting bare root stock, it is not unusual for natural losses to occur; always budget for a small percentage of failures to be replaced in the first two years following planting.

Eradicate hedge weeds during the first three growing seasons – it is cheaper to weed than to replace dead trees or repay grants. Besides, weed-free hedges establish faster and require less maintenance overall.

Planting protection should be checked twice a year to ensure that it is securely fitted, and protection should be maintained for at least 5 years.

Start planning your hedge and wood planting now. Choose from our new range of trees, hedging and plant protection products for the creation of new hedgerows and woodland at www.molevalleyfarmers.com/trees. Available online from November 2014.

Branches have a range of digging tools for tree or shrub planting. The West Country shovel with its long straight handle helps generate extra leverage. Spades come with a variety of finishes, so please call in and browse the range which includes iron bars and also shrub composts.

Digging spade

Solid forged carbon steel head and socket riveted for added strength

£22.62 inc VAT

£18.⁸⁵

MVF CODE 19947



Bulldog West Country shovel

£21.24 inc VAT

£17.⁷⁰

MVF CODE 3125



Greenman stainless steel digging spade

£24.98 inc VAT

£20.⁸²

MVF CODE 56135



NATIONAL TREE WEEK 29 November-7 December

Celebrating the start of the winter tree planting season, look out for events in your area or visit treecouncil.org.uk



Roofing and rugging

AND CATHY'S CAPERS COMING TO AN END...

The barn roof has been fixed, the winter fodder ordered and all the horses rugged up against the wet and windy weather that's suddenly arrived. September certainly lulled me into a false sense of security – warm dry days with heavy dews at night and grass that just grew and grew.....the horses and especially the foals have relished the incredible month – the driest since record keeping began in 1910!

Net result of this balmy weather meant October has descended into a state of chaotic panic trying to get fields harrowed and stables painted... jobs that should have been done the month before – you know – the one where it felt summer would never end.

Digging out the turnout rugs reminded me that I forgot to send everything for cleaning and repair at the end of last winter- no excuses when Mole Valley offer an excellent service. However, horse rugs are a bit like shoes...you can never have too many and somehow all the 4 leggeds - foals included - are dressed for the weather...more recycling of my wages back to Mole Valley.

Back to the subject of the barn roof – well it's nothing short of a minor miracle! I think I mentioned to you before that OH' DIY skills resembled a cross between Frank Spencer and Mr Bean....So I did enlist the help of a professional. Nevertheless Steve did actually get on the roof...managed not to fall through and even more miraculous - remembered to take the horses out of the indoor stables first.....this roof repair is akin to the eighth wonder of the world.



Whilst sounding suitably appreciative of his masterful repair it hardly seemed the time to mention the new Connemara ponies... purchased on my August trip to Clifden in County Connemara. Whilst I had sold more than I have bought and am in credit, I knew he would not be pleased! I have had a small stay of execution

as the two new purchases have not been able to travel home and remain in Ireland until such time as the coughs and colds my foals have been suffering with are all cleared up.... guess I just leave this newsletter lying around again..or maybe not, remembering the references to Mr Bean!

So as the sport horses reduce in number and the Connemaras increase.. meet the two newbies to the herd.....The first is Glencarrig Primrose, a beautiful mare I feel privileged to own – and one I would never have been able to afford had she not blemished herself badly. I thought in the auction ring her beauty, pedigree and success of her siblings would put her far out of my reach but she actually made about an eighth of her previous auction price and I feel extremely lucky to have secured her.

Joining her is an elegant filly foal – Glencarrig Empress, with superstar parents both sides of her pedigree and a full sister I have admired greatly. Primrose is already pure white and the foal won't be far behind her...I predict more wages going into Mole Valley's tills for shampoos, stain removers and whiteners to keep these new Irish girls in tip top condition!

The next pre-winter hurdle is foal weaning...not sure who hates the job the most...me – the foals or indeed the neighbours...suffice to say the first couple of nights will be noisy as they settle – motherless – into their new quarters.

Well that's me signing off now - you have heard lots about my antics over the last couple of years and followed the yard through many highs and lows, not to mention the trials and tribulations of OH and of course Diva dog – I hope you have enjoyed the journey.

Cathy Wood



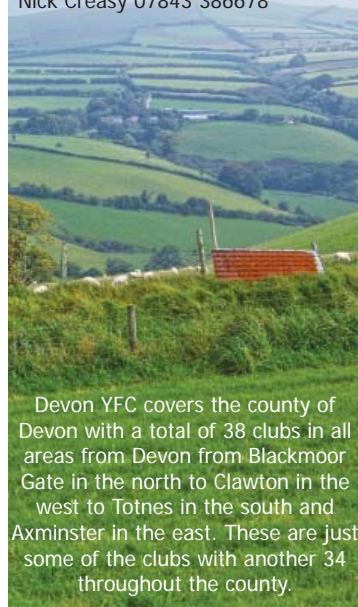
Glencarrig Primrose

DEVON YFC



VOLUNTEER WANTED!

Devon YFC are looking for a volunteer to do some press and PR work for them. If you are interested, please contact Nick Creasy 07843 386678



Devon YFC covers the county of Devon with a total of 38 clubs in all areas from Devon from Blackmoor Gate in the north to Clawton in the west to Totnes in the south and Axminster in the east. These are just some of the clubs with another 34 throughout the county.

Duchy College at Lifton Mill



PICTURED: Kerri Jameson, Andrew Parkleigh, Amy Camp, Kyle Walsingham, Maggie Leslie, Owen Martyn, Sam Horton, Joe Challis, Jason Nicholas, Oliver Martin, Eryn Hartley, Matthew Carter, Sarah Gillard, Shelby Chapman, Tiffany Kemp, Sam Morrish, Ashleigh Marshall, Tanya England, Lauren Symons, Charlie Hicks, Brad Stidwell, Brandon Lipscombe and Andrew Priestley. They are pictured with Mole Valley Farmers Ian Rolinson and tutor Nick Purdue.

Lifton Mill hosted a group of Level 2 'Diploma in Agriculture' students from Duchy College. The 24 students were from the college's Stoke Climsland campus and are all aged between 16 and 17.

Agri Retail Sales Manager, Ian Rolinson gave a comprehensive talk on Mole Valley Farmers and discussed how to make animal feeds. The students had plenty of questions and took an interest in how feed is manufactured and also how detailed the work can be.

The college say that it will be the first trip of many and will encourage them to look beyond the farm, and gain a holistic view of the different types of businesses and suppliers that support farmers, and how all of these fit together.

Future trips for the students will include visiting butchers and poultry farmers.

www.duchy.ac.uk

Winter worming

EQUINE WORMING

Hannah Davies, Veterinary Surgeon BVMS MRCVS



Equine worming seems to be a constant cause of confusion amongst horse owners and this is not surprising given the many different views and opinions on the subject. With the increasing threat of resistance in our UK horse worm population it is vital that horse owners follow a sensible worm control programme and enlist the help of their vet or SQP.

With the days getting shorter and the nights drawing in we now need to think about worm control in our horses and ponies over the winter months. So which worms do we need to worry about?

TAPEWORM

Tapeworm has become a more important parasite of horses especially since the association between tapeworm infection and colic in horses was described. Tapeworm causes areas of damage to the lining of the gut where the tapeworms attach and feed. This can affect the normal motility of the gut leading to spasmodic colic and, in very heavy infestations, can cause impaction colic.

ENCYSTED REDWORM

Small redworm or cyathostomes as they are also known are of particular importance at this time of the year because of the parasites ability to 'encyst' within the gut wall. The larvae picked up from pasture burrow into the lining of the gut and hide away there in a dormant state. Damage caused to the gut wall during the encysting phase can cause diarrhoea and mass emergence of the encysted larvae, which usually occurs in the spring, can lead to severe diarrhoea and colic.

BOTS

Bots are the larval stage of the bot fly and although rarely cause disease, can be associated with gastritis (inflammation of the stomach) and recurrent colic in horses and ponies. Horses pick up bots from mutual grooming and ingesting the eggs that are stuck to hairs of the horse's coat.

Equine worming planner

Your complete guide to a year round strategic worming programme
Available now from all MVF branches.
With a horse worming planner to complete, timely advice and information on understanding the life cycles of worms this booklet will help you plan against worms.

We also offer horse worm egg count kits, available from your local branch at £7.95 for 1-4 samples to £7.65 for 31+ samples (inc VAT).

It is estimated that 80% of the worms will be found in 20% of horses, suggesting that horses sharing the same paddock may have very different worm burdens. This highlights the need for each horse's worming requirements to be considered on an entirely individual basis.

Following a strategic worming plan will help you to meet the individual worming needs of your horse. Worm planners can act as a great starting block, with advice on the use of faecal worm egg counts, pasture management and rotation of drug groups which will, in turn help to reduce the development of resistance.

Resistance occurs when a worm is able to survive a standard dose of wormer. When this happens the drug will no longer be effective at treating those worms that have become resistant. Resistance is irreversible, so once the worm population on your yard has developed resistance, they will always be resistant and will produce resistant offspring.

With the ongoing issues this brings, we need to be using faecal worm egg counts to tailor worm treatments to only those horses that actually require it. Faecal worm egg counts will detect roundworm infection picked up during the grazing season. It is important, however, to remember that tapeworm, encysted redworm and bots cannot be detected using a faecal worm egg count.

There are blood tests available to identify exposure to tapeworm but no test is yet available for the detection of encysted redworm. Therefore in the autumn (October/November) it is important to treat for tapeworm and bots and a treatment for encysted redworm must be given well before the spring. Only certain products are suitable for treating tapeworm, bots and encysted redworm, so it is worth discussing worm control with your vet/SQP to ensure you are using the appropriate drug group at this time of year. Dose your horse as accurately as possible for their weight, weight tapes can be very helpful as a general guide.



DOG WORMING

We are delighted to announce the latest addition to the range of own label medicines from Mole Valley Farmers.

The new Molecare Dog Wormer kills every type of intestinal worm found in the UK dog population. This comprehensive roundworm and tapeworm treatment is extremely cost effective and can be purchased by individual tablet – ensuring customers can buy exactly what they need to treat the exact weight of their canine friends

Molecare Dog Wormer is manufactured using an extensively tested, well proven formula. As with all our products within the Molecare range, it couples exceptional value for money with the highest quality ingredients.

Our suitably, qualified staff members (SQPs) will be on hand to offer expert worming advice so do pop along to your local store for another great value Molecare product ensuring you keep your dog's parasite free.

Molecare
dog
wormer



£2.00

Per tablet, including VAT. Available from your local Branch.

We are always happy to answer any questions you may have in relation to worming your horse

Looking after wild birds

THE FEEDING SEASON

We've had a beautiful "Indian Summer", trees and hedgerows are loaded with berries and nuts and insects abound, wild birds are feeding to prepare for the winter period. Now is the time as natural foodstocks reduce to start feeding your garden birds more frequently. Twice daily is recommended...ideally in the morning then again early afternoon. According to the RSPB supper and breakfast are key meals for the birds as they need an energy boost before and after a night's rest especially as the temperatures start to really fall.

This is when birds can go really hungry as both food and water sources become scarce. Our garden birds require high energy food during the coldest weather to help maintain their fat reserves as it is these reserves that help ensure they survive the frosty nights. Days are shorter – feeding opportunities become more limited – the nights are long, cold and often freezing. A twice a day regime will really assist in the survival of birds during this time. Fats, Suets, peanuts, sunflower hearts and high energy mixes are ideal products to feed.

Giving birds a water source is also good, make sure it doesn't freeze over for too long should temperatures drop.

Keep feeders, drinkers and feed areas clean and free from debris and muck, and enjoy watching your garden visitors as they fly in to forage.



The Mole Valley Farmers range of wild bird food

NEW

We are delighted to offer the Mole Valley Farmers range of Wild Bird Food. It has been selected and formulated with the greatest of care ensuring only the best raw materials are used, sourced from reputable growers and producers.

The natural seeds and blends are all available in convenient 2kg pre packs as well as the popular VAT Free 12.6kg bulk buy.

The selection includes peanuts, black sunflower and sunflower hearts along with four quality blends. MVF Wild Bird Food is a great value offering whilst at the other end of the scale our High Energy, No Grow, No Mess is an incredible blend – all seed have been heat treated to ensure they will not germinate and de hulled for minimum mess. An inclusion of suet pellets into the blend ensures this mix delivers to the highest energy level requirements too.

Our range of fat balls includes pre packs, buckets of 50 and this year a unique 140 ball VAT free Maxi Buy tub (12.6kg). Look out for regular promotions on all our own products – offering you exceptional quality at great value all year round.



For those people who cannot offer food twice a day, why not invest in some additional feeders ensuring the birds have free access to feed throughout the afternoon until nightfall?

Our range of suet treats includes Fruit and Berry, Mealworm and Peanut, and fat balls come in packs of 8, 50 or 140.

SUET TREATS 1083059-61
FAT BALLS 1083062-64

MVF CODES 1082330, 1082328, 1082326, 1082324

12.6kg bags



£15.95 £14.35 £12.75 £13.50

£9.90 £7.95 £6.40 £15.95

Also available in 2kg bags

MVF CODES 1082332, 10771120, 1077119, 1082334

£11.99

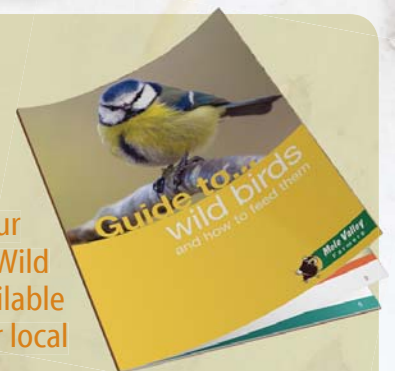
All our 12.6kg bags and our 140 pack fat balls are



VAT FREE

MVF CODE 1083064

Pick up a copy of our Guide to Wild Birds, available from your local branch



Introductory offer prices for November only



Solid fuel in 20kg bags available from all branches
housecoal • molacite
• firelight briquettes • anthracite nuts

Stock up on your winter fuel now!



mole valley plus
adding member benefits

01769 576201

Mole Valley Plus trade on honest and consistent pricing and are able to offer heating oil, derv, tractor diesel, Ad-Blue and LPG following this core principle, giving you the peace of mind that we are working hard to bring you the best service available.

Ad-Blue is available from 20 litres to up to 1000 litre IBC bulk containers which can be stored for 1 year in the correct conditions, away from direct sunlight and protected from extreme temperatures- Ad-Blue's freezing point is -11°C. Mole Valley Plus is able to offer special member pricing on Ad-Blue with nationwide delivery within 3 working days.

LPG is available in bulk for domestic, commercial and vehicle use. There is a discounted pricing structure for members with a free no obligation installation survey. We are able to take over your current contract so whether you have an existing tank or are looking to install a new tank; we will be very happy and able to help you.

Heating oil can be offered as you need on demand or within a top-up system, which takes away the need to monitor your tank levels throughout the winter months. Stock up now as this is the perfect opportunity to beat the winter rush.

For all of your fuel needs, look no further than Mole Valley Plus and let us take the hard work of fuel sourcing away from you with the confidence that we will offer consistent and honest pricing.

Call our Fuel Traders today on 01769 575668 for further information on the complete service available and to get your quote.

Fireside accessories

Match holder



Ideal for long safety matches

Normal price £5.99

Height 13cm, width 8cm, depth 4cm

£4.49

MVF CODES 1084997/8

Kindling bucket



Height 30cm, diameter (top) 32cm

£10.49

MVF CODES 1084999/5007

Normal price £13.98

Ash bucket with lid



SAVE 25%

Normal price £14.99

£11.24

MVF CODES 1085000/6

Buckets and match holder available in both grey or cream

Kiln dried logs



British, hardwood. Average 10-15 logs per bag

2 for £10

£6.09

MVF CODE 35976

Flamers firelighters



50 pack. Natural firelighters, wax dipped fine wood shavings

Normal price £4.15

SAVE 20%

£3.32

MVF CODE 52821

Phantom fan



SAVE 20%

Heat powered stove fan that sits on top of the stove and circulates warm air into the room to utilise all heat produced by your stove

Normal price £95.94

£76.75

MVF CODE 59307

Offers are available for November or whilst stocks last. Prices include VAT where applicable.



Schokolat chocolate gifts

An amazing range of chocolate tools and utensils! The authentic chocolate confectionery looks like the real thing with nicks, chips, scratches and an aged look!

Made from the finest quality Belgian chocolate (60% cocoa solids), the products are hand crafted and include items such as spanners, nuts and bolts, pliers, hammers.

Unique to Mole Valley Farmers are chocolate shotgun cartridges, so if you are looking for a present for a keen shooting enthusiast these may fit the bill

- 1083968 Single pack £8.94
- 1083969 twin pack £12.90



Range of authentic looking, Belgian chocolate tools



Chocolate shotgun cartridges, exclusive to Mole Valley Farmers

Visit your local branch to see the range of Schokolat gifts

Fosters lager

Pack of 15 x 440ml cans



GREAT VALUE

£12.66

MVF CODE 1085872

Strongbow cider

Pack of 15 x 440ml cans



GREAT VALUE

£12.66

MVF CODE 1085873

Prices include VAT where applicable.

WIN VIP tickets to the St Austell Brewery Celtic Beer Festival!



WIN A PAIR OF VIP TICKETS TO THE CELTIC BEER FESTIVAL HELD AT ST AUSTELL BREWERY IN ST AUSTELL, CORNWALL.

ENTER TODAY!



Every year for the last 15 years St Austell Brewery has hosted the Celtic Beer Festival at their famous brewery.

This year's event takes place all day on Saturday 22nd November from 11am to 11pm. All money goes to help good local causes and over £500,000 has been raised so far.

This day and night party for over 18's only features continuous live music and over 150 beers from the SW and further afield. St Austell Brewery is just a short walk from the main train station for those traveling on the day - or why not stay in one of their great pubs and hotels in and around the town?

We have two prizes of a pair of tickets to the event. For your chance to win one of the pairs, just answer the following question...

Who is hosting the Celtic Beer Festival?

You can enter at

molevalleyfarmers.com/newsletter-competition

or email celticbeerfestival@molevalleyfarmers.com

giving your answer to the question, along with your name, membership number and contact details. You will also find our terms and conditions at molevalleyfarmers.com

Closing date for entries is midday on 14/11/14. Winner will be notified by email on 14/11/14 and your tickets will be posted 1st class to your MVF account address. Only one entry per membership number.

Recipe of the month

Mole Valley Farmers prides itself on supporting local food producers.

Simple & satisfying recipe



© Seb Chandler Photography

Butternut squash risotto



Butternut squash risotto

Serves 4

Approx time: 50 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1kg butternut squash (peeled and cut into chunks)
- 2 tbs. rapeseed oil
- 2-3 garlic cloves (finely chopped)
- A handful of sage (freshly chopped or dried)
- 1.5L vegetable stock
- 50g butter
- 1 red onion (finely chopped)
- 300g risotto rice
- 125ml white wine
- A handful of pine nuts
- 50g parmesan, finely grated

Method:

1. Heat oven to 220°C/GM 7. Add the oil, squash and sage to a shallow roasting tin and roast for 40mins, until it is brown and soft.
2. In the meantime, bring the stock to the boil and keep on a low simmer. In a separate pan, melt half the butter over a medium heat. Stir in the onions and sweat gently for 8-10 mins, stirring occasionally. Stir the rice into the onions until completely coated in the butter, then stir continuously until the edges of the rice grains start to look transparent. Add the garlic and pour in the wine and simmer until totally evaporated then add the stock. Stir over a low heat for 25-30mins, until cooked.
3. When the squash is cooked, lightly purée half of it leaving the rest whole. Stir the purée through the risotto, add the cheese and butter and leave to rest for a few minutes. Serve scattered with the whole chunks of squash, pine nuts and fresh sage leaves (optional).



2 for £12

Christmas
Traditional
Tournament
Westcountry Mead
Mulled Wine



Normal price per bottle £7.56

MVF CODES 64027, 37034, 1085769-70, 34007

Lyme Bay Winery and Fruit Liqueurs

2 for £20



Apricot Brandy
Cherry Brandy
Elderberry & Port
Ginger
Sloe Gin

Normal price per bottle £10.92

MVF CODES 43912/4, 64029-30

3 for £15

Normal price £5.94 each

75cl



Hardy's VR wine

Cabernet Sauvignon
Chardonnay
Merlot
Rose
Sauvignon Blanc
Shiraz

MVF CODES 60002-03, 50993, 47925-27

Harvest Fruits mulled wine

2 for £6



Normal price per bottle £3.48

MVF CODE 54812



Christmas gift ideas

**SAVE
40%
off RRP**

**Wilkinson Sword
professional
multitool**



Ideal for many uses - camping, hiking, fishing, sailing, around the home. Polished stainless steel, blade locking function. Supplied with pouch. rrp £24.99

MVF CODE 1084353

£14.99

**Cluson LED
Cluliter Classic**

**NEW
PRODUCT**

Rechargeable torch, 300m beam, rapid recharge, 50,000 hour LED bulb life. FREE LED worklight worth £6.98



£33.60

MVF CODES 1084171/1078406

**Draper hi-torq metric
combination spanner set**

Contains a range of sizes from 6-32mm in a wall mountable plastic storage rack

**SAVE
OVER
£10**



Normal price
£53.52

£43.00

MVF CODE 63614

Kent car valet gift pack



Bugshifter, shampoo wash and wax, polishing cloth, demist pad, stockinete, sponge, yellow duster, synthetic chamois, all in a 10 litre bucket rrp £11.99



£9.98

MVF CODE 1084622

Sealey American Pro top chest and roll cab



Top chest contains 4 drawers, and roll cabinet, 2 drawers. Unit overall size top chest 600 x 260 x 340mm. Roller cabinet 616 x 295 x 703mm



£95.00

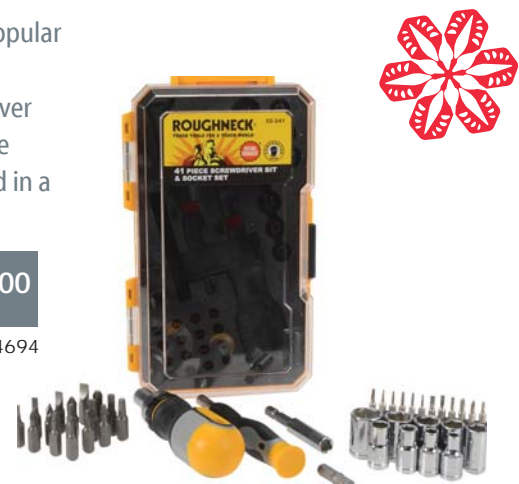
MVF CODE 1084624

Roughneck 41 piece screwdriver bit and socket set

Includes a range of popular screwdriver bits and sockets with screwdriver handle, ratchet handle and extension. Packed in a robust storage case.

£12.00

MVF CODE 1084694



make it a
**COUNTRY
CHRISTMAS**

Just a flavour of what's in store for you!

Tomcat archery set

With spare arrows, paper target faces, face pins and foam target

SAVE
over 25%
when purchased
together



Full price
£119.94

£89.⁹⁴

MVF CODES 1085818-22

Many more gifts at your local branch! See back page for dates of our late night shopping events this year

Briers digital weather station

The Briers digital weather station features a wireless outdoor sensor which relays the outdoor temperature and humidity to the indoor unit.

SAVE
£22
off RRP



It will also display the date and time, day of the week, weather forecast and moon phase calendar.
RRP £39.99.

£17.⁹⁹

MVF CODE 1085512

Einhell mini grinder

FREE
Medium flap
disc

115mm. 600 watt motor, metal gear head, spindle lock for quick disc change. 2 year warranty. Medium flap disc worth over £4



£30.⁰⁰

MVF CODE 1082378/49741

Black and Decker screwdriver

Built in lithium battery. Forward and reverse. Ideal for awkward places. 3.6V KC460LN



£19.⁹⁹

MVF CODE 1084850

Christmas cards

Medici Cards twin pack box of 16 cards and envelopes (8 x 2 designs) x 152mm sq.

Price per pack
£5.99

MVF CODES 1078506-8

3 packs
for £10



Cushions

1. Cable knitted cushion 100% polyester in cream. Inner cushion with 100% polyester fire retardant filling. 45cm x 45cm

2. Faux linen and polyester cushion in knightshadow with white bird print. Inner cushion with 100% polyester fire retardant filling. 30cm x 45cm

3. Cotton, polyester and linen cushion in cream with black bird print. Inner cushion with 100% polyester fire retardant filling. 30cm x 45cm

2 for
£10



normal price £7.50 / £6.48 each

MVF CODES 1082542-4

November clothing offers



SAVE 40%

Regatta Highmore 3 in1 jacket

Men's waterproof and breathable Jacket. Available in black or seal grey.

S-XXL



Normal Price: £109.99

£65.99

MVF CODES 1080911-20

SAVE 40%

Regatta Nightsky jacket

Ladies waterproof and breathable jacket. Luxurious faux fur lining to the hood and cuffs. Available in moss.

10-18



Normal Price: £79.99

£47.99

MVF CODES 1080701-05

The Country COLLECTION



Get your Autumn/Winter 2014 Country Collection, packed full of brands you love at really great prices. Take advantage of free delivery with this issue and treat yourself or your four legged friend with the best the new season has to offer from brands such as Musto, Joules and Horshareware.

There are more than 10,000 countryside products online at molevalleyfarmers.com and even more in store, including well-known brands such as NAF, Spillers and Champion.

Available to pick up in your local Mole Valley Farmers branch now!

SAVE 40%

on selected weird fish clothing and accessories!



Weird Fish Artist tee shirts

Men's 100% cotton tee shirts with a vintage wash. Ford Capri available in liquorice, Fish Course available in rich navy or Desperate Clam available in steel



S-XL

Normal Price: £19.99

£11.99

MVF CODES 1084125-36

Weird Fish Manser utility bag

Cross body bag made from a vintage wash cotton canvas. It fastens with a popper flap and has a main zipped compartment. Available in mocha or raisin.



Normal Price: £24.95

£14.97

MVF CODES 1084086-87

Weird Fish Nettleton make up wash bag



All over print make up or wash bag in 100% cotton canvas. It has a zip opening and features 3 internal slip pockets.

Available in raisin.

Normal Price: £12.95

£7.77

MVF CODE 1084083

Weird Fish Brunswick purse



A functional printed purse made from a vintage wash cotton canvas with leather trim. Available in mocha or raisin.

Normal Price: £19.94

£11.96

MVF CODES 1084084-85

SAVE 40%



Toggi Dudley shirt

Ladies classic fit cotton shirt with stretch. Contrast print detailing at the cuffs. Available in greige stripe.



10-18

Normal Price: £41.99

£31.49

MVF CODES 1081183-87

Toggi Tisbury shirt

Ladies classic fit cotton shirt with stretch. Featuring a new polka dot print for this season. Available in frosted pink dot.



10-18

Normal Price: £41.99

£31.49

MVF CODES 1081188-92

Available from all branches but as special order only at Bridgwater, Holsworthy, Liskeard and St Columb, so please ask.

SMALL ADS

Daniel Vertenten, bovine foot-trimming specialist, NACFT regd, large or small herds, young calf de-horning, covering the South West. For a friendly & efficient service. 01837 811194 / 07866 514951

Cattle clipping, pre-sale or routine. Operating IAE belly clipping crush. Covering South West. Call Daniel on: 01837 811194 / 07866 514951

Rayburn, solid fuel model, Regent. Royale MF Supreme. Sales, repairs, restorations & new boilers, various colours in stock. For details call: 07792 755103

DJ Cox Contracting, for all your tarmac work, machine or hand ley, silo pits, drives, yards, tennis courts, free quotes. 01278 785911 / 07850 352902

Charlie & James Davey, professional cattle foot trimmers, covering the entire South West. Also freezebranding & scanning very competitive rates. For more info inc photos, videos & farmer recommendations. visit our website: www.cattlefootcare.co.uk or call: 07811 111303 / 07790 289709

Cereals, oilseed & pulses. Dried, clean & stored. Bugs eradicated. Crops brought up to specification. No rejections. No outloading or weighbridge charges. 1 mile from A303, Yeovil area. 07932 657140 / 01458 223250

Swimming pool & hot tub construction, maintenance & repair. Hugh Gardner. www.devonpoolservices.com 07929 960761 / eve 01884 820230

David Mather Cattle Services, for all your hoof-trimming, de-horning & clipping of dairy & beef cattle. Clean, safe equipment, skilled operators, quiet stockmen, reasonable rates. Providing a professional, reliable service to farmers across Cornwall & Devon. Gentle on your cattle, gentle on your pocket! 07800 985006

Virgin clean woodchip supplied by the cubic metre, seasoned or green. Please call Brendon Hill Tree Services Ltd on: 01984 624183 / 07971 531333

Fencing at competitive prices. Stock fencing, post & rail, gate hanging, stock pens & hedgelaying. Contact Stuart Webber. 01884 860165 / 07740 399138

Qualified land agent, able to assist with single farm payments, environmental stewardships, cross compliance, land management, agreements, farm mapping & more. Contact Gemma Sparks: www.blackdownconsulting.co.uk 07533 340847

Colin Weeks Forestry & Fencing, for all your forestry requirements, from thinning to clear felling, we buy diseased larch & all other species of standing timber, hardwood & softwood. info@colinweeks.co.uk 01769 580096 / 07713 248744

Freeze branding & livestock scanning. Defra approved. Reliable, efficient service throughout the South West. Call Brett Luxton 01837 880331 / 07889 275937 luxtonfreezebranding@gmail.com

Sheep scanning - Chris Blatchly. 01823 663317 / 07801 678543

Sheep & cattle scanning (PD). Simon Cooper. 07974 120946 / 01837 851717

CD Bookkeeping & Accounts Services. General bookkeeping, end of year accounts preparation, VAT & PAYE. Agricultural knowledge. Somerset area. Please phone Chris on: 01823 491257

Sheep & cow ultrasound pregnancy scanning. Rob Branfield. 07866 623354

Farm buildings built, repaired & altered. James Gardner. 07807 359847

Ex dairy farmer heifer rearing contract, suit medium/large herd, DIY AI if required, weighing etc. 01984 623374 / 07967 318071

Horse arenas, stables & yards & farm buildings www.jsmorrisgroundworks.co.uk 01458 259593

SJ Norman & Sons, will slaughter & provide butchery for home consumption, lambs £24, pigs £35, beef £200, as per your cutting instructions. We can also pack & label your cuts direct for your freezer. 01308 422967 or email admin@sjnorman.demon.co.uk

Planning: Need professional, practical & affordable help with rural property / planning issues? Contact Bondstones: Ian Firth / Oliver Arthey enquiries@bondstones.co.uk 08455 441990

Do you rear animals for the freezer? We collect from abattoir in a refrigerated van. Hang, cut & pack to your requirements in our cold store & cutting room & deliver back to you if reqd. Sausages, bacon & burgers no problem. We also sell local beef, pork & lamb in boxes at competitive prices. Located Broadhempston, Devon. 01803 814250 / 07764 660456 e mail richens96@btinternet.com

Small of Devon, industrial & domestic roof coating specialist. High pressure painting of rusty barns, slate weatherproofing, exterior wall coatings, high pressure cleaning & re-slating & tiling service. 01626 680239 01626 821537 / 07754 856859

Deer control/management. Qualified stalker, game meat hygiene cert & deer stalker cert 1 held. All enqs welcomed in confidence. George. 07771 331790

Winter housing + silage available for up to 180 cattle, 100 cubicles + loose housing, first cut clamp silage. Experienced stockman on site. 01984 623374 / 07967 318071

Richard Cory hoof trimming, NACFT regd, fully licenced cat1, competitive prices, fully insured, experienced hoof trimmer. 01271 850525 / 07538 350810

Town & Country Planning Consultancy, specialising in planning applications & general advice relating to householder, equestrian, small renewables, agricultural, enforcement issues & agricultural appraisals. Judith Hayes Planning. 01598 740481

Countryside Fencing Somerset Ltd, covering SW, for all your fencing needs, prices from £2.79 per metre. www.countrysidefencing.com. llminster 07736 009565

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Mike Ford Fencing. National Fencing competition winner 2008/09/10/12. Stock fencing, post & rail, equestrian & poultry. 01769 580472

Gold services S.W. Ltd, Agricultural buildings & repairs & modifications. Also new buildings erected & Kit form buildings. Free quote: 07734 690278

G.A. Earthworks Ltd: Specialists in bulk excavation, earth bank slurry lagoons, shed sites, land drainage, lake & pond construction, land clearance, & forestry works & landscaping & mini excavators. For info please visit our website or email us or even phone. www.gaeearthworks.co.uk info@gaeearthworks.co.uk 07792 931899

Concrete grooving! With cows being so valuable, it seems a shame to lose or damage them through slippery yards. To groove & make safe those vulnerable areas ring Macattacc. Prices at www.macattackptns.co.uk 01225 891750

Freeze branding for clear ID, guarantee results indefinitely, straying & missing heifers are a lot easier to trace with a F/B. Alphabet & numbers, full size & calf irons, also branding crate carried for calves. Cattle scan, qualified all at competitive prices. Russell. 07860 574159

Firewood splitting service. Mobile hyd log splitter & operator. 07969 041959

Sheep scanning, in a crate standing up, we mark, fast & accurate, 15yrs exp here & NZ. Also cattle scan qualified. Luke. Soms/Glos/Wilts. 07889 248640

Gary Heal Gardening Service. Grass cutting, domestic & commercial. 01598 710458

Farmers & smallholders, farm shops etc. slaughtering & cutting service available at small family run, fully approved, abattoir & cutting plant. Pork, lamb & beef (inc OTM) processed to your requirements. Soil Association & ABM certified. 01460 220420 csnellwholesale@btconnect.com

J Ayre Electrical Ltd. All electrical work undertaken inc agricultural, industrial & domestic. E: Info@jayre-electrical.co.uk Simon: 07967 637988 / 01884 243111

Dan Toogood, available for: round baling, hedge trimming, dung spreading (west or rear discharge), slurry tanking, ploughing based near Wellington 07754 080254

Do you want to go on holiday but no one to look after the farm? Do you want advisory or practical support with beef, sheep, grass or crops? I am a very reliable, experienced ex farm manager looking to help you. If you think I can help call Dave Powell: 01984 641647 / 07970 042176

Sheep pregnancy scanning. Torrington. John. 07720 447883

Hedgelaying & tree felling in Devon & Cornwall. Sam White. 07515 420883

Traditional hedgelaying Bridport, Beaminster area. 07796 416733

Andrew Hawken first class professional foot trimmer, deal can be done. For friendly & polite response call Andrew. 07907 796836

Trailer-towing.com. Fully qualified driving instructor, 1 to 1 training, courses from £445 including test, also refresher courses, discounts available, tax deductible. Visit website or call for info. 07810 738331 / 0800 1120060

Foxford & Webber now taking bookings for hedgelaying. 20yrs' exp, covering 20 miles radius of Tiverton. You will likely have passed our work. We also cover all your building needs / hard landscaping & roofing, etc. chrisjwebber@hotmail.co.uk 07712 189671 / 07801 090815

CCTV & security installations for farms & domestic security dwellings. HDCCTV with facial detection, with email notification & iPhone apps, call ameganctv.co.uk Quote Mole. 07824 813375

Professional farming & countryside photographer & countryside cards collection. www.kevinmilnercountryside.co.uk 01962 732585 / 07719 570370

Kernow Fires Ltd. Specialists in Woodburning stoves & green heating solutions based on Trenant Ind Est, Wadebridge PL30 3JE. Providing full installation with extensive showroom for all budgets. info@kernowfires.co.uk 01208 812527

Experienced Devon based Westerly Chartered Accountants are available for a wide range of services including; end of year accounts & tax returns, bookkeeping, VAT, payroll, business planning & commercial support. Visit our website at www.westerlyaccountancy.co.uk or call for a free consultation. 07966 416184 Rob (N. Devon) 07779 812792

Woodland services felling, coppicing, scrub clearance, scrub clearance, hedge laying, small scale planting. Call Mark 07894 863299

Horse arenas, stables & yards & farm buildings www.jsmorrisgroundworks.co.uk 01458 259593

To Let

Exclusive Welsh Barn in Brecon Beacons Sleeps 10 for week ends & holidays www.maesyberlanbar@gmail.com

The Tower, Crantock, Cornwall. Luxury apartment for 4 people, families & couples only, outstanding views of Atlantic, coastal path to unspoilt beach 3 min walk. Dog friendly, non-smoking, no passing traffic. www.sandyclose.co.uk 01637 830394

Harlyn Bay near Padstow, comfortable 3 bed holiday cottage. 500 yards from safe, sandy beach & coast path. Enclosed garden. 01271 850658

Riverside caravan & camping park, on the gateway to Exmoor, set in 70 acres of parkland, 4 star family park, open all year, 3 specimen carp lakes, luxury statics. www.exmoorriverside.co.uk 01769 579269

Accommodation wanted to rent by professional couple within 10 miles of Barnstaple, with small paddock & outbuildings. 07737 478829

5 acres of grass keep, suitable for horses, 2 miles west of High Bickington. Call for details 01769 560635

Property for sale, new home, ideal equestrian, 8 acres, £475000, East Allington, Kingsbridge 4 miles, 3 bed house, plans for 5 bed, pond, orchard. American barn stabling, bridle paths inc to good pubs. j@mathys.org.uk

Sheep grazing available, Broadway Illminster. 01460 52900

Feniton, sheds to let with cubicles for over wintering cattle, up to 60 head. For details call. 07779 203177

www.blindwellbunkhouse.co.uk accommodation for cyclists & walkers in Exmoor National Park with stunning views of Devon. Includes drying room & secure lock up. 01598 740246

For Hire

Log processing, up to 16" diameter, cut & split. We travel to your yard or woodland, & can process up to 20 t/day. Devon & Somerset area. Chris. 07725 029541

2T & 9T digger with operator for hire competitive rates. 01823 669090

Mature Limousin bulls for hire. Ped & quiet, BVD & Lepto vac. Robinson. 01363 866310

Cherry picker, 50' reach, ideal for gutters, chimneys, painting, tree work etc. 07970 059622 / 01769 574096

Stump grinder, removes any size of stump, with or without operator. 07970 059622 / 01769 574096

8" tracked or wheeled wood chippers, diesel, with or without operator. 07970 059622 / 01769 574096

Skid steer loaders, from 44" to 66" wide, both with buckets & dung grabs. Also 1.5T to 5T mini diggers, available with post hole auger & breaker/post banger. Self drive. Richard Smith. North Molton. 01598 740406 / 07970 914070

Ped Limousin & Angus bulls. 01460 52317

Operated skidsteer hire. 3' - 5' machines, with low profile cabs. Friendly & reliable service. Devon & Somerset area. Chris 07725 029541

Events

Have a look at www.allaboutsheepdogs.com while deciding how you want your working sheepdog trained, or call Caroline Woolley for a chat. 07703 197823

TSH Dance at Uplowman Village Hall, Friday 14th Nov. Dancing to the Texans Band 8.45pm-1am. Fork supper, bar. Tickets £15. 01884 820377 / 252431



DATES FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS DIARY

Late night Christmas shopping, branches open 6pm-9pm

Bridgwater	26 Nov	10 Dec
Cullompton	2 Dec*	
Frome	11 Dec*	
Holsworthy	10 Dec	18 Dec
Liskeard	10 Dec*	
Newton Abbot	2 Dec	18 Dec
South Molton	5 Dec	10 Dec
St Columb	9 Dec*	
Yeovil	11 Dec	18 Dec

*open all day from 8am-9pm

We look forward to seeing you at our late night, double discount, shopping evenings. There will be tastings, entertainment, offers and more for you to enjoy. More details at your local branch nearer the dates!

Christmas opening hours

24 Dec	All branches close at 4pm
25-26 Dec	Closed
27 Dec	Normal 8.00am-5.30pm
28 Dec	Newton Abbot and Yeovil branches only, 10am-4pm
29-30 Dec	Normal hours 8am-5.30pm
1 Jan	Closed
2 Jan	Normal hours

Breakfast Week

25-31 January

Celebrating the most important meal of the day! Get ready now to be involved in this event, organised by HGCA to help support



UK cereal farmers and producers. TV chef Phil Vickery has provided two of his breakfast recipes as well as his top tips. Phil Vickery's Museli Breakfast Biscuits

Find the recipe at shakeupyourwakeup.com

SUNDAY OPENING

BOTH NEWTON ABBOT AND YEOVIL BRANCHES ARE NOW OPEN FROM 10am until 4pm on SUNDAYS



ALL PRICES IN THIS NEWSLETTER EXCLUDE VAT (where applicable) EXCEPT WHERE STATED OTHERWISE

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DIARY DATES

1-8 Nov	Welly Week , raising funds for RABI. Wear your wellies with pride at work or out and about. Tweet and donate by text (70070) - i.e. RABI18E5 to donate £5. rabi.org.uk
4 Nov	Establishing a wood , the grey squirrel problem with young trees. Course run by DWT with North Devon NIA call 01409 221823 northerndevonnia.org
5 Nov	50 years of dairy farming revolution . Somerset Grassland Society meeting with Kay Carslaw at Pipers Inn, Ashcott TA7 9QL 8pm start. Details Clive Bethell 07976 895643
9 Nov	Exmoor Mountain Bike Challenge - raising funds for North Devon Hospice. 10am from Wimbleball Lake. 20 miles of mud, marsh, rivers and rough terrain. For more info go to northdevonhospice.org.uk
	Beef South West - see page 8
13 Nov	Devon Grassland Society with Jason Vickery, Dorset dairy farmer and Nuffield Scholar. Reducing dairy farm costs to prosper in a global market. Devon Hotel, Matford EX2 8XU 8pm. Contact Nigel Hester 07799 563847
17 Nov	144th Helston Fatstock Show , Franchis Farm, Helston. For details call 01326 572004
19 Nov	N Devon Grassland Society . Speaker, Chris Knowles "Why grazing should be at the heart of West Country dairy farming". 8pm Cedars, Barnstaple. Dave Budd 07774 196792
20 Nov	Devon Wildlife Trust - Greater Horseshoe Bat Project . Farm walk, talk and lunch. N. Devon area, to discuss funding, NFU presentation on Greening and CAP, Habitat Management, Guest Speaker from Eblex. Contact Chantal Brown 07778 700539 or Ed Parr Ferris on 01392 260868. Supported by NFU/Duchy College/Eblex.
24 Nov	SW Winter Fair , Primestock Show, Sedgemoor Auction Centre. 01278 410278
26 Nov	Late night shopping at MVF Bridgwater 6pm-9pm. More late night events at your local branch, see left for dates and details.
27 Nov	How to fell and extract timber , practical solutions for everyday woodland owner problems. Course run by DWT with North Devon NIA call 01409 221823
29 Nov	National Tree Week - see page 25. Event on until 7 December
1-2 Dec	Welsh Winter Fair , Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells LD2 3SY
2 Dec	Late night shopping at MVF Newton Abbot (6pm-9pm) and Cullompton (all day 8am-9pm)
7 Dec	South Molton Fatstock Show , South Molton pannier and livestock markets.
11 Dec	Devon Grassland Society . Why we farm the way we do and the role of the vet in low cost forage based farming systems. Rachel Risdon, Devon dairy farmer and vet. Devon Hotel, Matford EX2 8XU 8pm. Contact Nigel Hester 07799 563847

For information on these events, contact the Show Team on 01769 575653 or see www.asao.co.uk (Assoc. of Shows and Agric. Organisations)

www.molevalleyfarmers.com/mvf/info/general/Community



Fund raising rides by Bampton YFC

Vice Chairman to the Devon Federation of Young Farmers' clubs, Caroline Trude recently emailed us with news from Bampton YFC.

Eight members of the club completed a sponsored cycle ride from Bampton to Paris in September 2014, raising money for Exeter Leukaemia fund, Children's Hospice South West and Bampton Young Farmers.

They set out on a 350 mile route taking five days. The journey included cycling to Portsmouth to catch a ferry to Caen, a detour to visit Bampton's twin town Villers-de-Bocage and finishing beneath the Eiffel Tower. So far the club has raised over £3000. Well done Bampton YFC!

64th British National Ploughing Championship

Bryony Gill of St Austell is seen here at the recent 64th British National Ploughing Championships held near Basingstoke. Over two hundred ploughmen from all over Britain took part, with the top two ploughmen being selected to compete at the World Ploughing Contest in Denmark in 2015.



Photo by John Corsan