

South Wales Farm Vets

Ty Newydd

Groes Faen

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## Our Team



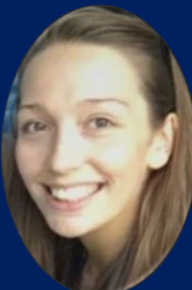
Mary Walters



Rhian Matthews



Clive Moynan



Morgan Richards



Tom Searle

## Living And Working In Your Community

August 2019

Hello and welcome to August. I hope that you have all managed to get on well in the dry weather and that those of you that went to the Royal Welsh, enjoyed it. Well done to everyone who participated in the show.

Exciting news from us this month – Rhian has had her baby, a baby girl on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July. Mother and baby are doing well.

This month, don't forget to come and visit us at the Vale Show on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – we are somewhere near the entrance to the farm stock area and can offer you a sit down and a cup of tea.

Also this month, we have a daytime meeting in Park Vets on BVD. Spaces are limited so please contact us as soon as possible to book.

And finally, a few reminders for this time of year

Time to enzovax and toxovax

Pretupping ram checks

Bull fertility check time

Ram vasectomy time

Lungworm

Mary

### Fixed time artificial insemination in beef cattle

Fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) can be a useful tool when managing suckler herds, both pedigree and commercial, as it offers the opportunity to get cows or heifers in calf without using the 'regular' stock bull.

It can be used in situations where a bull cannot e.g. the stock bull is the sire of the heifers, or where different traits are desirable e.g. breeding replacements with improved milk production or when mating heifers where easy calving is of prime importance.

Alternatively, on small groups of cows, it may not be practical or economically viable to run an extra bull, so FTAI offers an alternative for getting them in calf.

Lastly, on groups where a young bull is to be used, a round of FTAI could be used to get some cows in calf, ensuring that the bull is not overworked in his first season.

Success rates from a single round of FTAI are typically 60% of cows in calf, providing that the cows are clean and cycling at the start of the procedure, which is something that is always checked. The whole process takes 10 days, and involves handling the animals three times.



Continued PTO



Sian Fuller



Russell Fuller



Rachel Davies



Sian Lloyd



Helen Dando



Tracey Huntley

First handling will involve the vet scanning the reproductive tract to ensure the animal is a suitable candidate, i.e. clean and cycling. A CIDR will then be inserted into the vagina to release hormones that are absorbed into the animal's blood stream over 7 days. After 7 days the implant is removed and an injection of prostaglandin (Estrumate) is given which is the second time handling is required. AI is required 56 hours after removal of the CIDR which accounts for the third and final handling.

As the cows are all synchronised to come bulling at the same time, it is then possible to watch them closely three weeks later to spot any repeats, or alternatively a sweeper bull can be put in a week after AI to mop up any empty cows.

The process seems expensive, with the combination of vet fees, semen costs and AI fees. However, running an extra bull is very expensive, as he will need to be fed and housed, and any depreciation in value has to be factored in (Table 1).

Cost of bull	£2,500
Cull value	£1,000
Working life	3 years
Depreciation per year	£500
Feed and housing per year	£500
Total cost of bull	£1,000 per year

Table 1. Total costs of keeping a bull

Should a bull only be used to sire 20 calves, e.g. a small group, cost per calf sired is £50, making FTAI cheaper, and removing the need to keep and handle an extra bull.

Therefore, although FTAI will not be suitable in all herds, there will be many situations in which it can be useful to a farm, and should not be perceived as being expensive or difficult, especially with the additional benefits it brings.

### Rhian has calved

Rhian had a pretty red heifer named Evie on Saturday 27th of July weighing in at 7lb 12oz.

Apparently they don't tie the expectant mum to a bit of shed or use ropes and a jack in hospital, never-the-less both are doing well.

We are sure she'll be on show in no time.

### Congratulations to both Rhian and Rhys.



### Practice News

Congratulations to all our clients who did well at the Royal Welsh Show this year. Richard and Lynwen Anthony of Tythegston Farm, were winners of the 2019 Sir Bryner Jones Memorial Award. Rhys Lougher of Ty Tanglwst Dairy was honoured with Associateship by the Council of Awards of Royal Agricultural Societies. The list of clients and friends who have been recognised at this year's show is far too many to list individually but well done and congratulations to all.



A charity 'Wooden Horse' race night is being held at on Saturday 31st of August starting 7pm at Cwm Carno Farm, Rhymney, NP22 5QY. The event is in aid of The Royal Welsh Show and local cancer charity 'Helping Hands'. Tickets are £10, including buffet. Contact Lee Pritchard for tickets on 07901119263.

Well done to Tom who has been nominated for a Young Vet of the Year competition in recognition of his hard work, we'll let you know how he gets on. Tom's TV appearance on Nadiya's Time To Eat is scheduled to show on the 12th of August on BBC 2 at 8pm.