



CATTLE DISEASES OFTEN SEEN AT TURNOUT *(that can be prevented!)*

LEPTOSPIROSIS ABORTIONS.

Grazing urine contaminated grass in the summer can lead to costly abortions. Leptavoid-H is licensed to protect against both UK strains and to improve herd fertility. It has over a decade of UK field experience and is proven to reduce urinary shedding. It also helps protect you and your staff from this infection .

BLACKLEG.

Clostridia organisms lie dormant everywhere in animals, soil, water and feed. They are frequently the cause of sudden unexplained deaths especially in grazing cattle. Clostridia diseases can kill cattle within 24 hours and are triggered by various events. Vaccination is the only sensible course of action if there is, for example, a history of blackleg on your farm. Covexin 10 is the first vaccine to protect against 10 deadly clostridia in cattle and provides 12 months protection.

LUNGWORM.

Cattle lungworm have a very short life cycle in ideal environmental conditions and can then rapidly cause extensive permanent lung damage to growing cattle, often ruining a replacement heifer. Huskvac is still the only vaccine against internal parasites that is available in the world! At a time when we are trying to use less wormers in order to discourage the emergence of resistant worms, it is wise to make use of this product before turnout especially in First Season Grazers .

Please contact the surgery to place an order or discuss these products further.

SELEKT CATTLE PUMP AND DRENCHING SET:

how to avoid drowning cows!

Just a reminder that when tubing calves or adult cattle it is possible for it to go horribly wrong. If using the above cattle pump (which we do supply), it is important to remember:

- Start pushing the hose through the gag gently and slowly so as to encourage the cow to swallow the rounded tip on the hose.
- Confirm the presence of the hose in the oesophagus before drenching the cow (smell or palpation in left side of neck).
- Use the blue lever on the gag to secure the hose in it and prevent it from retreating back towards the throat which can be a cause of drowning.

Stop Press!

A sheep version of the above has just become available also.....



BLUE TONGUE

The good news is that for the second year in a row there have been no cases of Bluetongue discovered in the UK. DEFRA have carried out another surveillance operation this winter and all samples were negative again. This means that we could apply to be declared BTV 8 free by the EU and according to the present rules that would mean farmers would then be barred from using the vaccine. However negotiations are continuing in order to change these rules and allow vaccine use without losing BTV free status. Last year France carried out another compulsory vaccination programme and no cases of BTV8 had been reported by the French authorities (as of November 2010). The nearest case of BTV8 reported was in Northern Italy on the French border. BTV 1 has been reported in France (1 case) and Spain (around 30 cases) in 2010.

No compulsory vaccination programme is planned in France this year and it appears that the risk of Bluetongue in South East England is decreasing. However it is important to remain vigilant for this notifiable disease and suspect cases should be reported immediately to the surgery or DEFRA.

BTV 8 vaccine is available still and one manufacturer (Merial) has some short dated stock available at £0.50 per dose. Please contact the surgery if you wish to maintain BTV 8 protection in your herd/flock especially if you have valuable pedigree breeding stock.

TB UPDATE:

A quick update of where we are now:

- At present 6 of our clients are under movement restrictions due to recent breakdowns
 - The licence for the badger cull is not granted yet, but the NFU are very hopeful this will happen in the near future
 - The NFU is working hard on organising this cull with the aim to deliver the it in a professional and organised way.
 - Some interesting facts and tips given by Paul Caruana, Field Services South West:
 - Current badger population estimated to be over a million animals, but no one really knows the true number
 - Since 1997 around 650.000 badgers died on the road
 - Badgers can get through any gap bigger than 3 inches, under a fence or through a gate
 - When fencing off known latrines, make sure the badger can still enter this area otherwise they will go somewhere else
 - Make sure water troughs are high enough but also not accessible from the side, eg due to climbing a wall or hedge
 - Badgers can climb 5 feet high walls (and trees!)
- Check fences to ensure no nose to nose contact, don't forget the neighbouring alpaca (6 metres double fencing ideally)



SHEEP ISSUES:

- Be aware: recently we have seen a couple of cases of scab in different flocks. So if you have got sheep that are itchy or are losing their wool then ring us to discuss which steps to take to diagnose and treat these animals

- **Blood testing pregnant ewes**
(article from DHHPS newsletter, University of Edinburgh)

It is that time of year when the start of lambing for a lot of flocks is not far off and so now is the time to consider blood sampling groups of pregnant ewes for a metabolic profile.

The main nutritional risk period in sheep is during late pregnancy when energy balance could be a potential issue. At this time energy demands are on the rise due to the rapid growth of the lambs in the womb. In addition feed intakes are also likely to drop. In extreme circumstances twin lamb disease can result.

However poor lamb birth weights, high levels of lamb deaths and poor milk production by the ewes can all be a consequence of inadequate late pregnancy nutrition.

There are long and well established practices for adjusting the energy aspects of nutrition in sheep based on beta-hydroxybutyrate levels in blood. Ideally blood sampling should be done 2-3 weeks before lambing is due to start. Earlier than this, sheep are not yet in the high risk period and so there is the potential that some energy problems could be missed. If the ewes are sampled later than this the opportunity to make nutritional adjustments for the benefit of the flock are limited.

If sheep have been scanned for the number of lambs they are carrying and grouped accordingly, precise advice can be given over the level of concentrate feeding to each group of ewes. For example, decreases in feed levels to ewes carrying single lambs may be advised. Feed adjustments along these lines result in more economic use of concentrates. Blood testing is still of benefit in flocks that do not scan as the same principles apply.

Protein feeding in late pregnancy is also very important. Blood testing monitors both the longer-term aspects of protein nutrition and the more immediate question of rumen degradable protein (shortages of which can be common in housed sheep). Rumen Degradable Protein has a significant effect on milk production and therefore lamb health and growth rate. So if the metabolic profile suggests low levels, ration alterations would be advised. Minerals and trace elements can also be checked if required.

DHHPS (Dairy Herd Health Productivity Service) charges £75 for up to 20 sheep . At least 5 ewes should be sampled from each group.