

FARM NEWSLETTER

BLUETONGUE 2010

BTV continued to be a concern in 2009, especially when BTV 1 reached within a few miles of Le Havre in August, but fortunately it did not cross the Channel.

Europe as a whole experienced far fewer outbreaks in 2009 than in previous years. The vast majority of reported cases were in France. There were 61 holdings infected in total, of which 53 were BTV8 and the rest were BTV1.

There has been some DEFRA surveillance done during November 2009 in cattle concentrating on the area where infection was found in 2007 and the results did **NOT** detect any sign of disease.

Attention is beginning to turn towards the UK being able to be declared free of BTV and what is needed is a proof by surveillance that BTV has been absent for two consecutive years. However, the level of surveillance used last year was lower than that requested by the EU for freedom from disease to be declared!

It is significant that France as the last neighbouring EU country to use the BTV vaccine on a widespread scale was also the country with the most recent batch of cases of BTV8. It appears that the vaccine is protecting animals as well as contributing to the hoped eradication of the disease.

In the meantime, we do believe that it is still prudent to vaccinate all susceptible ruminants again in 2010 because:-

1. The continued presence of disease in France in 2009
2. The apparent effectiveness of the vaccine
3. Freedom from the disease in the UK has not been established yet.
4. Cattle not receiving an annual booster dose may need to restart in the future their vaccination programme with a primary course (double dose).

As a **minimum** requirement we would request you vaccinate all breeding female/male cattle, sheep, goats and camelids.

STARTVAC- MASTITIS VACCINE

Some of you will remember a vaccine previously on the market for E Coli mastitis called 'Enviracor'. This was discontinued, but a new vaccine called Startvac will be introduced for vaccination against E Coli, Staph Aureus and CNS (Coagulase Negative Staphs). It has been used outside the UK and trials are now taking place in the UK before the vaccine is officially launched. The vaccination programme is: 1st administration 45 days BEFORE calving, 2nd administration 10 days BEFORE calving and 3rd administration 52 days AFTER calving. Immunity will last for 4 months after calving. It is important to remember that the vaccine will not prevent bacterial infection, but will reduce the severity of clinical signs, reduce sub clinical cases, lead to lower somatic cell counts (SCC) and should lead to higher rates of case resolution. If you are interested please contact one of us at the practice to discuss further.



CYDECTIN TRICLAMOX— SHEEP WORMER AND FLUKICIDE

In March 2010 Fort Dodge/Pfizer is launching a new product for sheep called 'Cydectin Triclamox'.

This is a wormer (Cydectin) combined with a flukicide, to be more specific a Triclabendazole like "Fasinex". This is a flukicide that is effective against ALL stages of liver fluke.

Although ease of use is important and, therefore, having a combined product that treats worms as well as fluke can be good, a warning is in place. With increasing numbers of wormer resistance and also resistance to some flukicides, overuse and mis-timing of treatment should be prevented.

Often a combined product is given while either there are no worms or the timing for the fluke treatment is wrong. This could cause unnecessary selection towards resistant worms or fluke.

Part of the cycle of fluke is in the snail and the fluke only comes out of the snail at the end of summer, so fluke treatments are mostly aimed at autumn/winter and sometimes spring rather than worming which is more often done spring/summer and autumn.

Both overuse as well as using it at the wrong time has led to increased resistance.

So although a promising product, just think about when to use it! and if not sure contact us to discuss.

LASER – Livestock Assurance South East Region – is a health assurance scheme, which gives farmers some recognition for actions they have taken to identify and reduce the incidence of disease amongst their cattle and will help to highlight the financial benefit of controlling diseases in the herd and when trading cattle. The pilot scheme, which is open to all farmers and veterinary surgeons in the South East, has received funding from EBLEX and Defra initially for a three-year period, making it free for farmers to become involved. The project is overseen by a Steering Group chaired by Surrey beef farmer Angus Stovold, whilst Mr Tim Gue from Huddleston Farm in West Sussex provides a dairy perspective.

LASER acknowledges steps taken by farmers to control disease in their animals, such as vaccination and testing.

Each herd enrolled in the LASER scheme will be assigned a status for each of the five key production diseases of cattle – BVD, IBR, Leptospirosis, Johne's and bovine TB. This status will range from Platinum (a herd which is accredited as being free of a disease), through to Bronze (a herd where the disease status of the herd is unknown, or the disease is known to be present), via Gold and Silver.

If you want to find out more about LASER project and these standards, view the LASER website at www.laserlivestock.org.uk or contact the practice.

If you want to participate in the scheme it is free of charge and if you register an interest with the surgery, we will input your relevant veterinary information and we will allocate you a "standard" for the 5 diseases. You will then be sent a username and password so that you can access your data and then be able to pull off the relevant certification to show a prospective purchaser of cattle. You will not be able to alter the information but we also have access to the data and we will update/alter your status accordingly to the most recent information, eg. Laboratory results, vaccine sales etc.



'FARM SKILLS'

With the last newsletter we send out a leaflet about 'Farmskills'
To quickly summarize Farmskills is XL vets new farmer training programme, which seeks to put groups of interested farmers together in workshops of 6-8 people for practical, hands on training delivered by vets and industry experts.

Obviously we as Cliffe vets would like to play a part in this and offer you this kind of training, but to do so we will need your help. We need to know what YOU are interested in, and would like training in. To be able to run these kinds of small group training sessions we need 6-8 people. We have had some reply, with interest in foot trimming and sheep basic management. SO, please let us know (when we're on the farm or give us a ring) what it is you would like to do and we will get things started!
Looking forward to hear from you!!!!!!

NEW TB LEGISLATION

From the 1st of January 2010 DEFRA brought in some changes to the TB –rules:

Changes to Parish Testing Intervals (PTI) in England

The area in the East Sussex coast roughly bounded by Brighton, Lewes and Eastbourne will all be placed under annual testing and surrounded by a belt of 2-yearly testing parishes. This is to create a buffer zone between annual and 4-yearly testing areas.

This means that a lot of you that were still lucky enough to be in a 4-yearly testing zone will now have moved into 2-yearly testing.

REMEMBER, when in a 2-yearly testing area you will have to do a pre-movement test:

- > On any animal over 42 days
 - > For every movement of the farm other than straight to slaughter
 - > This is not paid for by DEFRA but is a private test
- It will be charged at an hourly rate, so the better the set up the cheaper it will be

Change to Inconclusive reactor (IR) policy

From now on, cattle will be compulsorily removed as reactors if they give inconclusive results at TWO (rather than 3) consecutive tests.

Change to the interpretation of the severe reading

Without going into too much detail this interpretation has become slightly easier, which should lead to less IR's.