



'Keep TB out of the South East' campaign Meeting at the ROEBUCK INN At Laughton, 7.30pm Tuesday 16th of June

In our practice TB is probably the most talked about and hated subject, not just by you, but also among vets. And unfortunately it is very much present in this small area of the south east of England. Therefore it must sound a little bit strange to hear DEFRA is setting up a new campaign called 'Keep TB out of the south east'. But realising that over 80% of the South-east is still free of the disease (see map) it will certainly be worth the effort to keep it that way and we therefore fully support this campaign.

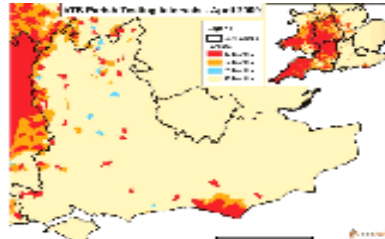
Last week we attended a meeting given by DEFRA to explain the campaign.

DEFRA vets present showed that although pre-movement TB tests are compulsory in endemic infected areas, last year **200,000 animal movements** eligible for pre-movement tests occurred without a test being carried out! Following on from this it was interesting to see that most cases in new areas were due to cattle being bought in.

This confirms that pre-movement testing (and maybe even post movement testing) remains important. Even though some positive animals will be missed with the test, DEFRA data showed that **1 in 2 movement**

related tests (pre/post movement) showed up reactors or inconclusive reactors in the South West, so movement testing will significantly reduce the chances of TB moving out of the infected area.

There will be a meeting as part of the campaign at the Roebuck Inn on the 16th of June.



PARASITES

Our in house laboratory has extended the number of parasites for which we can test. Performing these tests in house means we can get a result back to you sooner, often within 24—48 hrs. We can carry out:

- Worm egg counts, group and individual samples
- Fluke test
- Coccidiosis test
- Calf scour screen testing for coronavirus, rotavirus, cryptosporidium and E. Coli



'In memory of John Daykin Veterinary Surgeon of this Practice 1973- 2008'

On Wednesday the 12th of May a memorial to John Daykin was unveiled by Bill Pepper. This stained glass window features two of John's biggest passions. It is situated in the hall way towards the front door.

Come and have a look when you're next in.



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CREEPY CRAWLIES

Yep, it is that time of the year again.... the time that those crawly creatures called WORMS will be starting to cause problems. We know you've heard this many times before, but there are still many flocks out there that are over wormed or wormed with underperforming products. Why worm when it is not necessary???? It is a waste of money and effort, but most importantly, leads to multiple worm resistance. This is a problem already present in the UK and will only worsen with time. Over worming speeds up development of resistance.

SO A QUICK REMINDER

The main message is:

DO FAECAL EGG COUNTS BEFORE WORMING

It does not take long and certainly does not cost you an arm and a leg.

Put the lambs in the corner of the field, let them stand there for

10 minutes, when they walk away....take your pick. Make sure you get **10** **INDIVIDUAL** samples. We will then pool these samples in our lab to one sample on which we will do a FEC.

For £21 You will have an answer within 24-48 hours.

Doing FEC each month, from when the lambs are 6 weeks old, not only tells you if you need to worm the lambs, it will also give a much better picture of your pasture contamination.



SOME OTHER REMINDERS:

Don't underestimate weights!! Weigh the heaviest one and dose accordingly

Don't forget the quarantine drench (with a Levamisole and an Avermectin) when buying animals in

Do not dose and move, either leave them on the same pasture for 1 more week or do not worm about 15% of the best animals

FIND OUT WHAT YOUR RESISTANCE STATUS IS (ask us how to do this, it is not difficult)

BLUE TONGUE

For the months of May, June and July bluetongue vaccine Bovilis BTv8 will be sold at a reduced price. So for those who have not yet vaccinated there are NO MORE EXCUSES!

There is no protection left from last years vaccination as protection wears off within 12 months. It has been shown that cattle infected during pregnancy can give birth to infected calves which act as a reservoir of infection. Midges bite these calves and spread the disease. Calves born infected may show signs such as stargazing (wandering around looking up), opaque blue eyes due to deposits in the eye, and "dummy calves". Dummy calves have trouble walking and look below par on the intelligence side of things!

The cost of vaccination is very small when compared to the potential losses resulting from calves born affected.

Sheep can also pass the infection on to lambs if infected during pregnancy. Although lambing is largely over the disease is more severe in sheep and it is not too late to vaccinate!

COCCIDIOSIS-LAMBS

Coccidiosis is a disease of lambs usually 4—6 weeks of age. Adult sheep are immune but shed small numbers of coccidia which infect early lambs. The early lambs shed more coccidia which contaminate the pasture. When the later lambs are born the pasture is more heavily contaminated so it is these later lambs that tend to show infection.

Coccidiosis is seen more in heavily stocked or overcrowded paddocks due to heavier contamination of pasture. Symptoms include diarrhoea, dullness, abdominal pain and dehydration leading to weight loss.

When treating coccidiosis the whole flock needs to be treated as lambs that look unaffected will still be shedding coccidia adding to pasture contamination. Medical treatment and prevention is in the form of a coccidiostat, commonly added to creep feed.

Maintaining good hygiene is very important in reducing the incidence of coccidiosis. This means maintaining clean bedding and good drainage in lambing sheds and ideally grazing later born lambs on different areas to early born lambs.



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