



**FARM
NEWSLETTER
MARCH
2008**

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BLUETONGE VACCINATION:

A summary of the presentations given at our Bluetongue meeting detailing signs and symptoms, methods of spread, midge control and vaccination will appear on our website shortly (www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk). 20,000,000 doses of vaccine are being produced for use in England this year, the first doses (for use in the protection and surveillance zones) being released in May. It is likely that the vaccine will only be available for use in this area in late summer. Vaccination will be carried out on a voluntary basis by the farmer. We are already compiling a list of people wanting the vaccine as soon as it comes available.

CATTLE TOPICS - LEPTOSPIROSIS AND BVD VACCINATION IN CATTLE:

Animals which are vaccinated for Leptospirosis and BVD are usually injected in the spring before turnout. Previously unvaccinated animals such as bulling heifers will require 2 doses of vaccine 3-6 weeks apart whereas animals which are already in a vaccination system will only require an annual booster. If you currently don't vaccinate and are unsure of the Leptospirosis or BVD status of your herd it is possible to have bulk milk samples tested to determine the level of infection in your herd.

If you would like to know more about the BVD status of your herd, the likely significance of BVD on your herd's production and how best to control the infection, we are holding a meeting about the disease at the **Copy Nook Hotel** on the evening of **Tuesday March 11th**, for more details please contact Anne or Sarah at the surgery.

LUNGWORM VACCINE (HUSKVAC) FOR CALVES:

Each autumn we see problems associated with lungworm infections not only on young stock but also in adult cows due to insufficient immunity. The ideal remedy to this problem is to vaccinate calves before they are turned out in the spring for their first grazing season. Calves need to be at least 8 weeks old before vaccination and 2 doses of the vaccine are required with at least 4 weeks between the 2 doses. The second dose should be given at least 2 weeks prior to turnout. More information about lungworm and its control can be found on our website this month.

SHEEP TOPICS - SHEEP ABORTIONS:

Any aborting ewe should be considered as being contagious to other ewes until proved otherwise. Always isolate aborting ewes from all other sheep. It is well worthwhile having aborted lambs and afterbirths tested to determine the cause of the problem because preventative action such as vaccination and/or antibiotic therapy can be used to limit further losses this lambing time, and help you to formulate a strategy to prevent similar problems next year. Because of the potential human health risks posed by aborted lambs and afterbirths we insist that clients phone the practice first before submitting material and that the samples should be packed in watertight containers and are left outside the surgery and **not** brought to the Reception desk.

LAMBING TIME ORDERS:

As we approach the busiest time of the year for the dispensing of medicines we would like to remind clients that all requests for prescription only medicines (antibiotics) need to be authorised by a Veterinary Surgeon before our Receptionists or Nurses are allowed to dispense them, so it is essential to phone the surgery first to avoid disappointment. Phoning orders through in advance also allows your parcel to be made up which will save time waiting when you arrive at the surgery.

We have slightly altered the surgery times at our BENTHAM SURGERY, one consequence of this being that parcels taken over from Settle for collection on a Monday afternoon will now be put out for 5 o'clock (previously 4pm), other days will remain unaltered.