

BLUETONGUE VACCINATION

The first doses of Bluetongue vaccine have now been released for use on animals in the protection zones around where Bluetongue cases occurred last year. European legislation does not permit vaccination in "clear" areas (the whole practice is currently in a clear area), but as the summer progresses the protection zones will be extended to allow use of vaccine in our area, probably in August/September. We are currently compiling a list of orders for vaccine so that we can inform DEFRA and the vaccine suppliers of our likely requirements and if the vaccine is in limited supply so we have a list of who is supplied with vaccine first. If you haven't already ordered or would like to know more about the vaccine please contact the surgery.

- Cattle - 2 doses of vaccine required 3 weeks apart, full immunity develops 3 weeks after the second dose.
- Sheep - 1 dose of vaccine required, full immunity develops after 3 weeks.
- Animals over 1 month old to be vaccinated.
- Nil meat or milk withdrawal.
- Vaccine available in 20 and 50 doses bottles.

SCOURING LAMBS

The most important worm that lambs suffer from at this time of year is Nematodirus. The worm eggs over-winter on pasture and hatch out in Spring after being activated by warmer weather. This can result in massive numbers of worms being eaten by lambs at a time when they are beginning to eat significant amounts of grass. All 3 classes of wormer (white drenches, levamisoles and ivermectins) are effective against Nematodirus and there is no known resistance of Nematodirus to any wormer. If scouring lambs do not respond to worming treatments, coccidiosis or trace element deficiencies ought to be considered. No worm drenches will treat coccidiosis, a specific coccidiosis drench (Vecoxan) will be required. For advice on the most appropriate worming programmes for you or for a quote please contact the surgery.

BLOWFLY STRIKE PROTECTION

Clik provides extended protection against blowfly strike for 16 weeks. Only a few species of fly actually cause primary fly strike on sheep. In the UK, the green bottle is the most commonly isolated. Clik acts specifically on fly larvae preventing their development into harmful maggots, it is therefore only used for the prevention of fly strike. It has been developed to be rain fast and will provide 4 months of blowfly protection. Treatment of ewes and lambs in May will therefore provide protection throughout the blowfly season. For further information or a quote please view our website www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk or contact us at the surgery.