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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER—MAY 2023

SUPPLY OF VETERINARY MEDICINES

Whether down to the after effects of Covid, Brexit, the war in Ukraine, the state of the economy, or bad planning on the part of manufacturers, there are currently supply issues with numerous veterinary medicines and vaccines in particular. I shall highlight the latest information we have on various products but the take home message is to plan ahead and that if you know which products you are going to need through the summer to order now and to order the second dose with the first to minimise the chances of disappointment.

Cattle Products:

Leptavoid H (cattle Leptospirosis vaccine)

Currently have limited stocks available at the practice but then unavailable from manufacturers until June.

Bovivac S Salmonella Vaccine

Unavailable until early June.

Sheep Clostridial Vaccines:

Bravoxin and **Covexin 10** are both unavailable with a likely return date of July/August.

Heptavac P

Currently out of stock with limited supplies of 500mls and 100ml bottles likely in May/early June. 250ml early June and 50ml in August. We are taking orders, please contact the surgery to get your name listed. We will contact you when stocks arrive.

Ovivac P

Both 100ml and 500ml packs are currently available.

To discuss pasteurilla and clostridia vaccination options please contact the surgery.

Scabigard Orf Vaccine

Currently unavailable with a likely return date of end of May.

Abortion Vaccine

Currently good supplies of enzootic abortion vaccine. To try to avoid shortages in supply of Toxovax there is an additional 5% discount from the manufacturers on orders taken for delivery before the end of July.

Other Product News:

40% Calcium CM No5

Red top 40% Calcium CM No5 from Norbrook is currently unavailable although we have supplies of the 40% Calcium N02 and Calcibel.

Pen Strep

Pen Strep injection from Norbrook is still unavailable although we now have an equivalent product to prescribe.

THE DALEHEAD AI COURSE



Last week we held another successful DIY AI course. The proactive, practical course is held over 4 days with a mix of classroom, cadaver and live cow sessions. Our attendees passed with flying colours and we are looking forward to seeing their fertility results over the coming months. If you are interested in attending our next AI course please call the surgery to book your place as spaces are limited.

MAY
2023



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NEMATODIRUS AND COCCIDIOSIS

Worm season has well and truly arrived in our lab! Anna and Karen our vet techs are busy with lamb WEC (worm egg counts) as we are seeing a significant number of scouring lambs and the samples from flocks who sample routinely are showing up positive results for roundworms and coccidiosis.

As many of you know the first gut worm that causes problems in lambs is nematodirus. It has several clever adaptations that allows it to survive and cause so much damage. A thick-walled egg that hibernates on pastures for years waiting for a period of warmer weather to hatch. The larvae coil around the gut lining to feed. If there is a mass hatch, a large number of young nematodirus larvae can cause severe scour, dehydration and death in lambs. In contrast to the worms we see during the summer and autumn months, nematodirus causes damage before the adult worms are producing eggs that we can detect in the sheep faeces. This means WEC (worm egg counts) are not ideal for monitoring for nematodirus. We use the weather forecasting stations to monitor ground temperatures and predict when nematodirus are likely to hatch. The SCOPS website is the place to look for this information. We usually see disease due to this worm in April - May when lambs have started to graze and there is a hatch of worms simultaneously. The forecast is still moderate for our area however we are seeing a lot of infestations in lower farms, on the south facing fields where the ground temperature is likely to be higher. This is being picked up on FEC.

There is no resistance of nematodirus to any wormers – therefore we use white drench if we only have nematodirus as all other sheep gutworms have advanced resistance to these drugs. Coccidiosis is another parasite that causes disease in lambs over 4 weeks of age. This is not a worm but a protozoa so it requires different drugs to control it. The risk factors for cocci are heavily stocked wet environments, which we have seen increasingly this lambing time due to the relentless rain and poor grass growth. Many flocks have seen a much bigger problem than usual at a different time.

We often see coccidiosis and nematodirus at the same time. This is troublesome in several ways; the lambs' guts have a double whammy of damage, and you cannot dose a wormer and a coccidiostat at the same time. The drugs will inactivate each other, you need to treat at least a few hours apart.

To complicate the parasite situation further this year we are seeing some strongyle worms at a level high enough to dose in some, but by no means all flocks! This means that white wormer is not the best choice of drug due to its resistance. The pattern of cocci, nematodirus and strongyles is different from that seen over the last years in our lab. Our advice is that a FEC should be undertaken before dosing lambs. There have been a few costly mistakes this year through dosing with the wrong product, both in terms of cost and lamb production.



LAB UPDATE



As mentioned in the above article, the in-house lab has been extremely busy this month with faecal egg counts. Samples have revealed the emergence of nematodirus in lambs tested at 5-6 weeks of age as well as a high level of 'summer worms'. In addition to worms, lamb samples have also shown high numbers of coccidiosis. Samples from hogs, shearlings and adult ewes have revealed several high worm egg counts. The majority of fluke tests have had negative results.

Using faecal egg counts prior to dosing is a fantastic diagnostic tool which allows us to identify what parasite(s) is/are present and prescribe the best treatment. Although collecting faecal samples isn't the most desirable job, a correct diagnosis can save time, money and man power and ensure stock continue to perform the best they can.

Congratulations Hollie!

Congratulations to vet Hollie and her partner Matt who were married at Browsholme Hall on the 8th April 2023. We're sure you will join us in wishing them all the best in their married life together!

