

Dalehead Veterinary Group Ltd

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dedicated

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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023

THE DALEHEAD CHRISTMAS POEM

Christmas morning on the dairy farm,
The day starts at five, to the sound of the alarm.
While sheep farmers lie all snuggled up in bed,
Dairy farmers are up milking and getting cows fed.

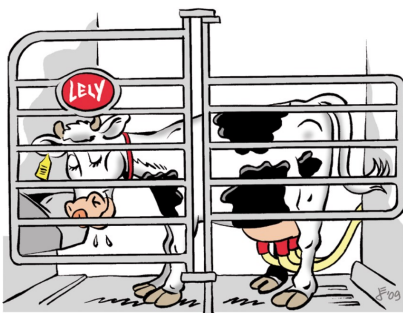
But the cows knew it was Christmas, and went to the extreme,
Giving gallons more milk, to pay for vet's routine.
Calves all fed and the other jobs done,
Time to get back in the house for some Christmas Day fun!

Before he sat down with a mug full of tea,
The kids ran through screaming 'DAD! COME AND SEE!'
Father Christmas had been and fetched them a pet,
'By gum' dad said, 'more money for't vet!'

A manic morning was rewarded with dinner,
Turkey with the trimmings, it's always a winner.
Belly full, pint drunk, now it's time for a sleep,
'thank goodness' dad said, 'I don't have to check any sheep'.

An afternoon spent with family, food and wine,
But before you know it, it's milking time.
There no worse a feeling, truth be told,
Leaving the fire to go out in the cold.

But until he can afford a robotic operation,
He'll continue to graft and feed the nation.
For Christmas he wished for something nice,
Nothing too much, just a rise in the milk price!



SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY

Lasting between 40 and 60 days, the dry period is a crucial time which allows the dairy cow and her udder to recover and prepare for the next lactation. The dry period is the most important time for curing long term udder infections (reducing the number of high cell count cows and cows with repeat cases of mastitis) but it is also a risk period for picking up new environmental infections which manifest themselves as clinical cases of mastitis in the following first 30 days of lactation. If you have over 1 in 8 cows developing mastitis during the first month of lactation, you are likely to have an environmental mastitis problem of dry period origin.

Antibiotic dry cow tubes are recommended for use in those cows with quarters which are already infected at the time of drying off but only offer very limited protection against picking up new environmental infections during the dry period. Internal teat sealants (e.g. **Orbeseal**, **Cephalock**) and the provision of a clean environment during the dry period offer a far greater protection.

In the interests of reducing total antibiotic usage, milk processors (e.g. Arla), dairy farm assurance schemes (Red Tractor) and supermarkets are now asking producers to consider which cows are sub-clinically infected at the time of drying off and will therefore benefit from antibiotic dry cow tubes and sealants, and which cows are not infected and can therefore be treated with sealants only. The concept of sorting which cows require antibiotic tubes and sealant at dry off and which need sealant only is known as **Selective Dry Cow Therapy**.

If you would like further advice on which cows are suitable for non-antibiotic dry cow therapies, please speak with one of the farm vets. If you have concerns over hygienic administration of non-antibiotic dry cow therapies, our Vet Techs are able to assist with the administration process.

Please contact the surgery for more details.



CELL COUNT TESTING SERVICE



For herds who don't milk record but want to know the cell counts of individual cows (e.g. when investigating a bulk tank cell count problem or checking on individual cow cell counts before drying off) we have a DeLaval cell counting machine at the surgery which can provide same day accurate results.

You can drop your samples and wait (if we have staff available to run the test for you) or we can text/email results to you.

Telephone the surgery on 01729 823538 for more details.

JOHNES MANAGEMENT PLAN

All dairy farms are required to have a National Johnes Management Plan in place with an annual signed (by us) declaration.

To be able to complete the declaration some individual cow sampling needs to have been carried out to determine your herd's risk status.

At the most basic level this will be a 30-cow individual screening (milk or blood) of targeted cows (highest risk animals in the herd).

If you haven't already completed your 2023 declaration or carried out the necessary tests, please contact us to arrange the screening tests and declaration.

National Johnes's Management Plan Veterinary Annual Johnes's Disease RE-ASSESSMENT DECLARATION 2023

This declaration should be completed with support from a BCVA Accredited Veterinary Advisor

Herd Status: Please indicate which testing method has been used to

- Cull cow screen
 Whole herd screen
 Targeted 30 cow screen
 Other (please specify)

Please note: Bulk milk testing is NOT acceptable under the NJMP

Control Strategy: Please indicate which strategy **you have agreed to** management plan

- Biosecurity protect and monitor
 Improved farm management
 Improved farm management and strategic testing
 Fireb

Please note: Only ONE strategy should be selected

Veterinary Declaration:

I, as a **certified BCVA Accredited Johnes's Veterinary Advisor**, can confirm a further assessment of Johnes's risk and status in the last 12 months, reviewed and agreed upon the written Johnes's management plan. Objectives of the National Johnes's Management Plan

MOVEMBER



CHANGE THE FACE OF MEN'S HEALTH

This year Dalehead Veterinary Group went head to head with Farmgate Vets to see which practice had more testosterone and could grow the best selection of moustaches..... It has been a competitive month, but we are please to announce the winners are DALEHEAD!!! Sorry FARMGATE!!

Your support has been fantastic and so far we have raised £542. The money raised goes towards making a difference in mental health and suicide prevention, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. If you would like to make a donation please scan the QR code which will take you straight to our fundraising page.

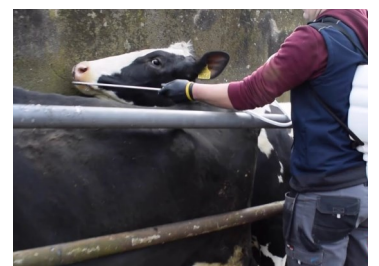


DO YOUR CATTLE NEED DOSING?

With the majority of cattle now in, the winter jobs can start. Now is the perfect time to review your farm plan for both internal and external parasites. A blood sample from 6 stirks or replacement heifers that have just finished their first grazing season will tell us if there has been any exposure to fluke. The test indicates exposure down to 2 week old fluke so if the results are negative then there is no need to administer a fluke dose saving you time, money and man power.

To monitor worm burdens a faecal egg count can be done in house at the Settle surgery. Age related immunity is significant in the control of gut worms and slowing down the development of anthelmintic resistance. Keeping records for youngstock which have seen either a full or part grazing season will allow the correct product to be used next turnout. There are several options as to what can be used but a comprehensive plan for all age groups can be discussed either now or at you're next herd health plan review.

To discuss winter parasite control, please contact the surgery to speak to a farm vet or farm SQP.



BLUETONGUE UPDATE

Following the confirmation of Bluetongue on a farm near Canterbury on 11th November, a further 4 cases in cattle have been confirmed on 2 different premises which are both within the 10km temporary control zone set up around the initial case.

**INCREASED RISK OF
BLUETONGUE VIRUS IN
GREAT BRITAIN**

Animal &
Plant Health
Agency



Visit: www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue

The BCVA (British Cattle Veterinary Association) has said that 'so far there is no evidence of circulating virus in the UK midge population and with the overall temperature dropping the risk of midge disease transmission is reducing'.

Further information on clinical signs of bluetongue can be found at:

<https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus/>

PRODUCT NEWS

Heptavac P/ Covexin/ Bravoxin

Supplies of clostridial (Covexin 10/Bravoxin) and combined clostridial/pasturella (Heptavac P) vaccines are still limited and we would definitely recommend you ordering/securing your vaccine early for pre-lambing boosters.

Footvax

No problems currently with the supply of all sizes of Footvax.

Scabigard

Following the major issues with supply of orf vaccine last lambing time we currently have supplies of vaccine (expiry date 2025) and although we don't anticipate any shortages would still recommend early ordering to secure your vaccine for the 2024 season.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ANNUAL SHEEP MEETING SPONSORED BY MSD

Monday 22nd January 2024 at 7pm

At North Ribblesdale Rugby Club

Topics including management of abortion and stillbirths at lambing time.

As in previous years extra discounts will be available on lambing list products for attendees on the night. Hotpot supper provided. Please RSVP by Friday 12th January 2024



REARING SYSTEMS FOR DAIRY CALVES

Monday 8th January 2024 at the Dalehead Farm Building

Why do many dairy farms have ongoing issues with their calf rearing systems and how do other species (e.g. pigs/poultry producers) manage better?

Meeting sponsored by Boehringer. Please RSVP by Friday 5th January.



LAB NEWS

Worm egg counts that are being tested in house and sent away to the external lab, as part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway grant, are identifying high worm burdens on some farms.

We are currently waiting for the latest fluke serology results from our monitor farms. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page or contact the surgery if you would like to be updated.

Fluke egg counts remains negative suggesting no evidence of adult fluke yet.

On the cattle side of things we have seen positive lungworm tests and calf scour tests have been positive for crypto and rotavirus.

On another note, Animal Plant Health Agency (APHA) are undertaking a project targeting suckler ewe mastitis bacteriology. If your ewes are experiencing mastitis issues this lambing time, then please speak to one of the farm vets about the subsidised testing to assist in identifying the causes of mastitis cases.

NEW TEAM MEMBER

The farm team is expanding again and no I am not happy with your expected comments about my waistline and how tight the pink shirt was!

The expansion I mean is specifically in the Vet Tech team with Claire Rylatt joining Anna and Karen in providing support services to our farmers and vets. Claire has experience as a TB tester, auction mart drover and with her own stock.

The Vet Tech team provide on-farm services, information gathering, diagnostic testing and vet support.

For a full list of services they provide contact the practice to see how they can help your farm.

