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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2023

SALMONELLA INFECTION IN CATTLE

Autumn/ early winter is the time of year when we see most outbreaks of Salmonellosis in cattle. Although there are many different strains of Salmonella bacteria the two most commonly diagnosed are **Salmonella Dublin** and **Salmonella Typhimurium**.

Symptoms

Salmonella infections are most frequently diagnosed in young calves or adult cows around the time of calving.

Calves

Very young calves can present with septicemia (blood poisoning) which progresses rapidly to death within 6-12 hours. Initially calves are dull, depressed and do not suck. Diarrhoea may be a terminal sign.

Older calves becoming infected will often run high temperatures (up to 106°F/ 41°C), be dull, not eating/ drinking and have grey pasty faeces containing fresh blood and mucus. Pneumonia and joint ill can also be symptoms of Salmonella infection. Surviving calves often grow poorly and occasionally can go off their legs at 2-4 months of age due to abscesses developing on the spine or lose the tips of extremities (e.g. ears, tail and even hooves) due to blood supply being cut off.

Adult cattle

Salmonella infection in adult cattle can cause abortions in later pregnancy, the foetus often looking as though its been dead for several days before abortion and the cow being significantly off colour. New calved cows are also particularly at risk often presenting as being dull, not eating, high temperatures with a profuse watery/bloody scour often containing pieces of gut lining.

Where does the infection come from?

Wild birds e.g. seagulls, starlings and rodents can be carriers of the infection and are capable of contaminating feed or water sources for cattle. Animals that have been infected with Salmonella may become symptomless carriers capable of infecting susceptible animals.

Salmonella organisms are persistent in the environment and can survive in dried faeces or slurry spread on land for several months.

Diagnosis

Laboratory testing of abortion material or scour samples will often confirm a Salmonella diagnosis. Bulk milk samples can be screened for presence of Salmonella Dublin antibodies.

Important points

- Salmonella infection is picked up by mouth from ingestion of contaminated food sources or from a contaminated environment so good biosecurity and hygiene in calving boxes and calf units is essential
- Good colostrum management is essential in preventing outbreaks in calves
- Isolate animals showing clinical signs
- Salmonella infections in cattle can affect humans as well
- Vaccines are available to protect cattle from salmonellosis



- A simple bulk milk antibody test can indicate whether Salmonella Dublin is present in your dairy herd.

MASTIGRAM+

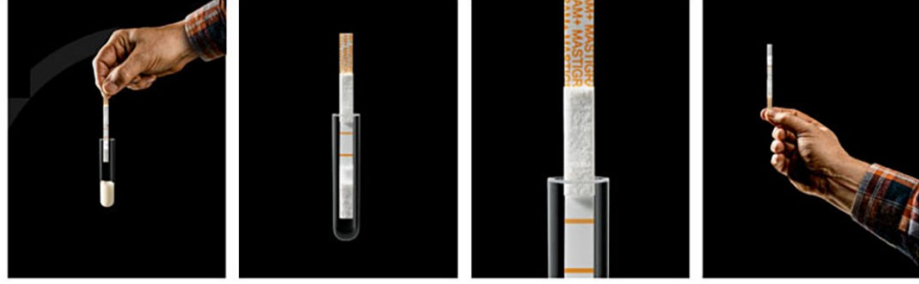
An exciting new test has been launched to aid in the treatment decisions for mastitis, increasing saleable milk and reducing antibiotic use.

Mastigram+ distinguishes between gram-positive and gram-negative bacterial causes guiding treatment options. We often find that gram-negative mastitis, such as E. coli, are

environmental pathogens and will 'self-cure' with anti-inflammatory treatment only. Gram-positive bacteria such as Staphs and Streps, are more likely to be contagious and require antibiotic treatment as well as anti-inflammatories. By avoiding antibiotic use in Gram-negative cases, we can reduce the withhold period and return milk to the tank once clinical signs abate, much quicker than if we had treated with antibiotics.

The test requires a milk sample to be incubated for 7 hours. A lateral flow dip stick test will then reveal a Gram positive or negative result within 10 minutes of mixing, hopefully in time for you to treat her at the next milking. We can incubate milk samples in house and have a result for you the same day, but please bear in mind samples require a sterile collection method and should be at the surgery as early as possible for same day results.

For more information, please speak to one of the vets at the surgery



FLUKE TREATMENTS FOR CATTLE AFTER HOUSING

Even though July and August were wet months we have so far seen little evidence of active fluke infection this autumn.

It takes 12 weeks for immature fluke which are eaten off pasture to migrate through the liver to become mature egg laying adults in the gall bladder. At this point we can use muck samples to diagnose fluke infection. Another method of testing to diagnose whether your cattle require a fluke dose is via blood sampling animals which have just seen their first grazing season. Cattle and sheep develop antibodies to liver fluke within a few weeks of being infected for the first time. This is the test that will detect liver fluke earliest after infection.

If not testing before administering a flukicide, careful consideration needs to be given to which product should be used. Any fluke treatments should be delayed after housing until all stages of fluke will be killed by the product used.

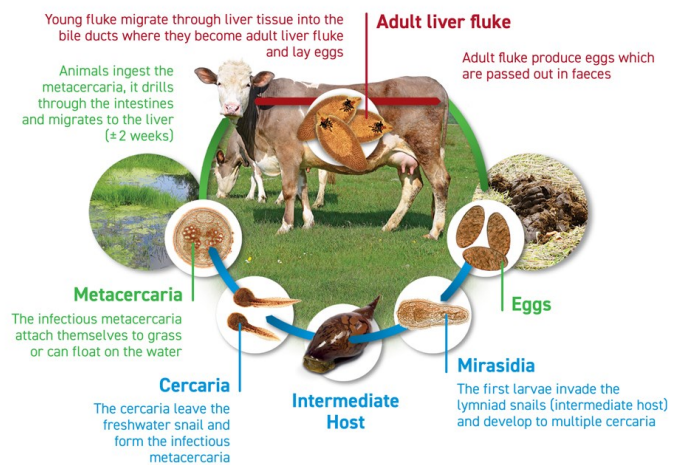
Treatment Options

1. Wait until cattle have been housed for at least 3 months and then carry out a Fluke Egg Count on a pooled dung sample (bring in individual samples from 10 animals for us to pool together at the surgery). If fluke eggs are present treat the cattle with a product effective against adult fluke e.g. Tramazole or Distocur.
2. If treating sooner Triclabendazole based drenches (Tribex, Endofluke, Fasinex) will kill down to 3 week old immatures whereas closantel based products e.g. Closamectin pour on or Solantel pour on will kill fluke down to 7 week old immatures.

When treating dairy cattle or fattening cattle programmes may need to be modified in order to satisfy meat and milk withdrawal periods.

For more information or to discuss fluke products please do not hesitate to contact the surgery.

LIVER FLUKE A COMPLEX LIFECYCLE



ANTIBIOTIC FOOTBATHS

We are all aware of the need to use antibiotics responsibly and reduce the overall amount of antibiotics that we use, targeting individual animals which need treating rather than blanket preventive therapies of whole groups. Therefore...

Anyone requesting an antibiotic footbath (e.g Lincospectin, Pharmasin, Tylan) will need to speak to a vet .

This is due to the products not being licensed for use in footbaths.

There are other chemicals which can be used to footbath livestock including zinc sulphate, copper sulphate and Formalin. Ensuring the manufacturer's instructions are followed will result in better outcomes.

In addition to foot bathing, sheep flocks can gain additional protection by using a footrot vaccination (**Footvax**) and adopting of the 5 Point Plan.



VETERINARY ATTESTATION FORM—DECEMBER 13TH 2023

Since Brexit, livestock export procedures have changed and a Veterinary Attestation Form has been introduced which declares regular veterinary health visits on the farm where the livestock originated from.

At present, a farmer declares there is no sign of ill health or disease but from 13th December 2023, if you are not part of a qualifying assurance scheme (Red tractor or equivalent) you will require a veterinary declaration for animal health visits. This involves us to sign the form which declares your farm is free of notifiable diseases and has good disease control and biosecurity.

A visit specifically for this service can be arranged or we can combine the visit whilst we are out doing something else. The form is valid for 12 months and a copy is to accompany livestock to the auction or abattoir.

As stated in previous newsletters, there is a grant available for farmers currently claiming RPA 'The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway'. If you wish to take advantage of the funding in order to obtain the Veterinary Attestation form please contact the surgery to discuss.

For more information or to discuss further please visit the link below or contact the surgery.

<https://www.laa.co.uk/news/5126/veterinary-attestations-faqs-for-livestock-markets-and-producers/>



LAB UPDATE

There have been a variety of tests run in the Dalehead lab this month.

Faecal egg counts continue to come in thick and fast. We are still seeing some high worm egg counts in lambs, but pre-tapping faecal egg counts from ewes and tups are showing no evidence of adult fluke infection.

The second round of fluke bloods have been taken on our monitoring farms located in Slaidburn, Ingleton, Bentham & Rathmell bottoms. All came back negative except 2 out of the 6 animals tested on Rathmell bottoms. This means that fluke is starting to rear its ugly head, but only at a very low level in very wet low lying areas.

We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you updated, please contact the surgery and speak to one of our vets or SQP's to discuss fluke risk on your farm.

In cattle we have had more positive lungworm tests. There has been an increase in calf scour tests being done this month, some of which have been rotavirus positive and others cryptosporidium positive. Mastitis bacteriology have seen a variety of results including, E. Coli, staph aureus and CNS.



MOVEMBER



CHANGE THE FACE OF MEN'S HEALTH

This year Dalehead Veterinary Group are getting involved in raising money for an amazing cause and to make it a little bit competitive, we are going head to head with Farm Gate Vets as to who can grow the best tash!!

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.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

MILKSURE TRAINING COURSE

Milksure is a structured, practical training programme for dairy farmers covering all areas of medicine use, especially targeting the avoidance of antibiotic residues in milk but also covering treatment protocols, storage and reducing the risk of antibiotic resistance.

Many milk buyers already require a member of the farm team to have completed the milksure training and more are recommending it. The milksure course encompasses an antibiotic review and also medicines training, both of which are required by Red Tractor.

We are hoping to run a milksure training course at the surgery before Christmas (*date to be confirmed*).



MilkSure✓

DALEHEAD AI COURSE

We are running a DEFRA approved artificial insemination course for cattle at the practice starting on

Tuesday 12th December to Friday 15th December.

10am-4pm.

Each day will be split into two hours in the classroom followed by three hours of practical.

The cost is £480 per person and numbers are very limited. Small groups of 5 will allow us to deliver a high quality course enabling a more one on one approach setting you up with the confidence and skill to serve your own cows.

If you are interested please contact the practice for more information.