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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024

ORAL FLUID THERAPY FOR ADULT COWS

Most farmers are aware of the benefits of administering oral fluids (calf sour sachets) to scouring calves to correct dehydration and correct any electrolyte imbalance. If the calf won't drink the fluids these are often administered by stomach tube feeder.

Oral fluid therapy to correct dehydration and supply essential nutrients is just as important in adult cattle. An increasing number of farmers will have seen us administering fluids via stomach tubes and purchased their own pump for administering products. At our recent meeting we discussed when oral fluids should be administered, how much volume, how frequently and which sachets should be added to those fluids.

An adult cow can easily drink over 100 litres of water per day of which over 50 litres is lost as water vapour when breathing out, 30 litres leaving the body in urine and faeces and 0.87 litres in every litre of milk produced. If the cow is off colour and stops eating and drinking it will very soon become dehydrated and benefit from being pumped with 20-40 litres of fluid.

Selekt Restore Sachets are the sachet of choice when treating dehydration caused by infection (e.g. severe mastitis, metritis). Add 1 sachet to 20 litres water. The solution is palatable and replaces essential electrolytes that have been lost. **Calf electrolyte sachets should NOT be administered to adult cows** because calf sachets correct acidosis and inappetent cows are alkalotic.

Selekt Off Feed Sachets are used for inappetent cows in early lactation. Mix 1 sachet in 20 litres water and administer via stomach tube. Because of the high potassium content no more than 1 sachet should be administered every 12 hours.

Selekt Fresh Cow contains 108grams of calcium (most calcium boluses only contain up to 50 grams) as well as glucose precursors to help prevent ketosis and yeast to stimulate rumen bacteria, and when mixed with 20 litres water and administered by stomach tube helps to prevent milk fever, keep the cow hydrated and eating and therefore reduce the risk of a displaced abomasum.

Select Glycerol Plus contains both glycerol (raises blood glucose within 1 hour) and propylene glycol which is present in most ketosis drenches. The product is mixed into at least 10 litres of water to ensure that it disperses well in the rumen and piped into the cow, and is used to treat cows with ketosis/slow fever.

Speak to one of the farm vets for more information about cattle pumps and oral fluid therapy.



THE DALEHEAD CHRISTMAS POEM



Christmas morning and the farmer jumps out of his bed,
Gets dressed, has a brew, ready to get his stock fed.



First job, the ewes, he fills the racks full of hay,
Whilst his border collie 'Peg' has a well-earned play.



Creeping his fat lambs, he listens to the church bells from the village,
Not paying attention to his job, he suffers a bit of spillage.



Heading back to the farm, he gives the quad bike some power,
Trying to stay dry but gets caught in a shower.



Cold and wet, but he struggles through,
Nearly finished his jobs, just the cows left to do.



But whilst smashing the ice in the water trough,
He noticed a l'al calf had a bit of a cough.

But the farmer was prepared, he didn't need to ring the vet,
He'd been reet organised before Christmas and restocked his drug cabinet.

With a jab of this and a shot of that, finally his jobs were done,
Ready to get back in the house to enjoy some festive fun.



As he sat down at the table and piled his plate with food,
He admired what he'd produced and it put him in a good mood.



At night he reflected about the year he had had,
And said to his wife 'Hell fire-that budget was bad!'

But onwards and upwards as we enter 2025,
Here at Dalehead we'll support you all, keeping the nation fed and alive.



Merry Christmas Everyone and here's to a happy healthy and
hopefully wealthy New Year!

It's Christmas!



*Come & join us for
some festive cheer*



GISBURN AUCTION MART

On the 5th and the 19th December we will be at our Gisburn Office spreading Christmas Cheer!

Andrew and Louise will be at the office from 10am-12pm on the 5th, and Russell and Louise will be there on the 19th.

We will be armed with mince pies, mulled wine, teas and coffees. We look forward to seeing you there.

BENTHAM AUCTION MART

We are proud to sponsor the Bentham Auction Mart Christmas Show and Sale of dairy calves on

Wednesday 11th December.

Rachel will be attending the show and sale and showing her support. GOOD LUCK!

FESTIVE OPENING HOURS

Settle Opening Times

Monday 23rd December	8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve)	8.30am-4.30pm
Wednesday 25th (Christmas Day)	CLOSED
Thursday 26th (Boxing Day)	CLOSED
Friday 27th December	8.30am-5.30pm
Saturday 28th December	9.00am-12pm
Sunday 29th December	CLOSED
Monday 30th December	8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday (New Years Eve)	8.30am-4.30pm
Wednesday (New Years Day)	CLOSED
Thursday 2nd January	8.30am-6.30pm

Bentham Opening Times

Monday 23rd December	4pm-6.30pm
Tuesday 24th (Christmas Eve)	CLOSED
Wednesday 25th (Christmas Day)	CLOSED
Thursday 26th (Boxing Day)	CLOSED
Friday 27th December	4pm-5.30pm
Saturday 28th December	CLOSED
Sunday 29th December	CLOSED
Monday 30th December	4pm-6.30pm
Tuesday (New Years Eve)	CLOSED
Wednesday (New Years Day)	CLOSED
Thursday 2nd January	4pm-6.30pm

24 HOUR EMERGENCY CARE 01729 823538

NEW PRODUCT: BOVILIS CRYPTIUM

VACCINE FOR THE CONTROL OF CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS IN CALVES

- Cryptosporidia infection is the commonest cause of scours in young calves less than 6 weeks of age.
- Clinical signs can range from mild scouring to calf death depending on the parasite burden, susceptibility, health status and age of the calves.
- Cryptosporidiosis is a protozoal infection (not a bacteria) and therefore cannot be controlled by conventional antibiotic treatments.
- Cryptosporidial oocysts (eggs) are passed in large numbers in the faeces of infected calves contaminating the environment to infect other susceptible calves.
- Oocysts can survive in the environment for over a year and are resistant to many commonly used disinfectants.
- We are able to diagnose Cryptosporidia infections from scour samples in our practice laboratory.
- **Bovilis Cryptium** is the first vaccine to protect against Cryptosporidiosis. Adult cattle require 2 doses of the vaccine 4-5 weeks apart in the last 3 months of pregnancy with the second dose being at least 3 weeks prior to calving. This produces high levels of protective antibodies in the colostrum which protects the calf when it receives adequate quantities of good quality colostrum and transition milk during the first 5 days of life. In subsequent years cows receive a single annual booster between 12 and 3 weeks prior to calving. The vaccine can be administered at the same time as Rotavirus vaccine.



Speak to one of the farm vets to discuss Cryptosporidia control on your farm and find out more about the role of vaccination.

ANNUAL SHEEP MEETING

Date: Monday 13th January 2025

Time: 7pm to start at 7.30pm

Venue: North Ribblesdale Rugby Club, Settle

At this years meeting we shall discuss all aspects of Bluetongue, the infection, how it spreads, legislation, movement restrictions, blood testing and vaccination.

We shall also have a presentation on oral fluid therapy for sheep to correct dehydration and correct electrolyte and energy levels in inappetent ewes (e.g. twin lamb disease) and a short presentation on sheep scab control programmes in the local area.

As in previous years extra discounts will be available on lambing list products for attendees on the night.

Hotpot supper provided. Please RSVP by Thursday 9th January 2024

