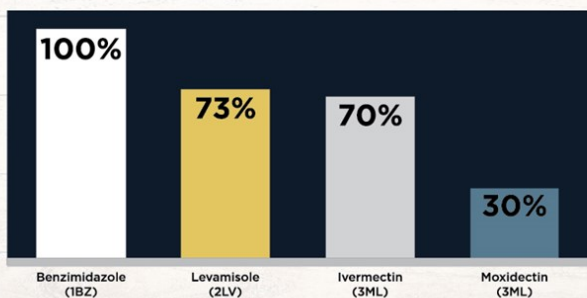


FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - JULY 2019

ANTHELMINTIC RESISTANCE

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Percentage of farms with anthelmintic resistance
Spring/Summer 2015



In May we held a Flock Club meeting to discuss worms and coccidiosis.

In terms of worms, the discussion centred around the ongoing resistance we have to wormers. I am sure you agree that the results shown in the graphs are startling! The implication of these results from a study of hill, upland and lowland farms, is that we are rapidly running out of drugs that work for our strongyles or 'summer worms'.

Times are changing and we have to let go of the 'we've always done it like that' attitude as it is not a justified reason to why we dose at that time.

Every year is different so monitoring our livestock by performing faecal egg counts enables the right treatment at the right time to be given. Faecal egg counts allow us to see what is happening on our farms, what parasites are present, which anthelmintics are effective and the best time to administer the prescribed treatment.

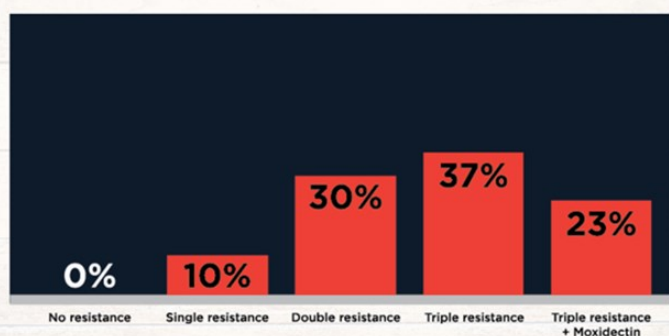
This year we have seen 'summer worms' in 8 weeks old lambs in the first week of May as well as Nematodirus. Last year we only had a Nematodirus problem at this time of year and didn't really see any 'summer worms' until the end of August/beginning of September. Obviously a very different pattern. This illustrates that we need to know not only what the worm level is but also which worms are present.

FAECAL EGG COUNTS ARE REALLY IMPORTANT TO TIME OUR DOSING CORRECTLY

We had a long discussion over dosing strategies and management tactics to control worms. The take home message for coccidiosis was to carry out Faecal Egg Counts in at risk lambs to monitor infection levels and to carry out speciation sampling when we first identify cocci on the farm.

If you feel you need some advice on worming or parasite plans, our farm vets and SQP's are always at the end of the phone happy to help. Why not consider joining our Flock Club to attend our meetings and get your farm specific health plan? Speak with Anna for further details.

Percentage of farms with resistance to multiple anthelmintics, Spring/Summer 2015



WAARD (Wales Against Anthelmintic Resistance) Project 2015

TRACE ELEMENT DEFICIENCIES IN GROWING LAMBS

The clinical signs associated with trace element deficiencies in sheep are often gradual in onset and usually present as poorly grown lambs in late summer/early autumn. There is considerable interplay between worm burdens, trace element deficiencies and quality of nutrition and it is important to consider all issues.

COBALT DEFICIENCY (PINE)

Cobalt has an important role in the production of vitamin B12 by rumen bacteria. Cobalt deficiency occurs where there are low soil cobalt concentrations which may be further complicated by worm burdens which cause diarrhoea, thereby interfering with absorption of vitamin B12 from the gut.



Clinical signs of cobalt deficiency are most commonly seen in mid to late summer and include lethargy, reduced appetite, poor quality wool with open fleece, small size and poor body condition despite adequate nutrition.

Cobalt deficient lambs may fail to respond well to vaccinations and be more susceptible to clostridial disease (e.g. pulpy kidney) and pasteurellosis (pneumonia).

Diagnosis of cobalt deficiency is based on clinical signs in areas with known cobalt deficient soils supported by blood testing lambs for vitamin B12 levels or by response to treatment.

TREATMENT

Treatment of cobalt/vitamin B12 deficient lambs is either by vitamin B12 injection and/or oral cobalt supplementation. Monthly dosing of lambs from 3 months of age with cobalt sulphate drenches should supply sufficient cobalt to growing lambs in most situations. **We can make up cobalt sulphate drenches for you at the surgery. We can also supply long acting vitamin B12 injection which will provide 3 months of supplementation from a single dose.** Please ask at the surgery for more information.



COPPER DEFICIENCY

In growing lambs copper deficiency may result in poor fleece without its natural crimp, poor growth rates, anaemia and increased susceptibility to bacterial infections. Copper deficiency is common when lambs graze pastures which are either low in copper or high in molybdenum, iron and/or sulphur.

If copper deficiency is suspected, blood samples can be checked to assess the copper status of the lambs and copper supplementation given if required. As well as being susceptible to copper deficiency sheep can also be prone to copper accumulation and toxicity. There is considerable breed variation with respect to copper absorption and

therefore to copper deficiency or toxicity. Veterinary advice is essential before copper supplementations are given to sheep.

For further information please contact the surgery to discuss.

TAURADOR POUR ON WORMER FOR CATTLE

Norbrook have recently launched **Taurador**, a pour on wormer effective against gutworm, lungworm, lice and mange with a 4-5 week persistency against gutworms and 6 weeks for lungworm. Youngstock will only need worming if they are carrying significant worm burdens, the best way of finding out is by performing a worm egg count on a pooled dung sample.

To encourage responsible use of cattle wormers, Norbrook have provided us with 20 free sampling kits to allow us to carry out worm egg counts to see what worm burdens your cattle are carrying and whether they would benefit from being wormed. To qualify for one of the free testing kits and free worm egg count or for a quote for Taurador please contact Anne or Anna at the surgery.

PRE-TUPPING PREPARATION

We have just had our most recent Flockclub meeting, the topic was pretupping preparations - using hormones. This is a summary of the discussion. There are several techniques available to manipulate the breeding season, they are all very effective but achieve slightly different goals.

REGULIN <i>Best for advancing the breeding season.</i> The implant increases the levels of melatonin in the blood stream. This simulates the natural process of onset of sexual activity in the ewes and tups. Melatonin is secreted naturally during the night and the increasing hours of darkness in the autumn means increasing levels of melatonin. Once melatonin reaches a certain level, the sheep breeding season starts.		
Tup:ewe 1:25 1:50 if tup implanted	Timing Day 1 remove tups Day 7 implant Day 42 introduce tups Day 60 peak mating	Things to note Ewes will not be synchronised, can't be used for flushing/AI Shortens lambing time, through increasing the number of ewes caught in the first cycle. Implanting the tup will increase his fertility and 'tupping power' Increases pregnancy rates, decreases geld rates doesn't increase multiple births
PROGESTERONE DEVICE <i>Best for batch lambing and AI.</i> Hormone impregnated sponges or CIDR used to synchronise and stimulate the ewe breeding cycle. It causes the ewes to ovulate at a certain time. This allows fixed time mating and batch lambing.		
Ewe:tup 1:10	Timing Day 1 insert device Day 14 remove sponge inject PMSG Day16 introduce tups	Things to note Mating is 48-72 hours after sponge removal Results vary with time of year and breed
TEASERS <i>Synchronises ewes for tupping and batches lambing, advances the breeding season.</i> <i>Useful for controlling natural service and an additional tool for the other hormonal techniques.</i> The sight, sound and smell of a male sheep causes a hormonal response in the ewes known as the 'tup or ram effect'. These pheromones work to cause a silent heat in all ewes within 2-3 days, followed by a normal fertile heat 17 days later.		
Tup:ewe 1:20- 1:50	Timing Day1 remove ewes from all tups Day 42 introduce teaser Day 57 introduce tups	Things to note One fit teaser ram should be enough for 100-150ewes. Works best if the ewes have had no sight, sound or smell of tups for at least six weeks before the teasers go out. The teaser should run with the ewes min 3 days, max 14 days. Separate ewes into groups to allow you to batch ewes and lambs into separate management groups and to tailor your available manpower and housing. The teaser needs to have the surgery 6 weeks before you use him. This is to ensure he has healed up well and is no longer fertile.



North Sheep Event 2019

On the 5th June we attended the North Sheep Event at New Hall Farm, Rathmell along with many of you!

Despite the rainfall we had a fantastic day, catching up with numerous familiar faces over a selection of hot or cold beverages, sandwiches and cakes.

Thank you to everyone who came to see us on the Dalehead stand. We look forward to seeing you during the show season!

- Malham 24th August
- Hodder 7th September
- Bentham 14th September



DISCOUNTS ON EARLY TOXOVAX ORDERS

Although it may seem early to be thinking about ordering **Toxovax**, it is worth bearing in mind that the manufacturers (MSD) are offering an additional 5% discount on Toxovax orders which are delivered in July and August.

Sheep need vaccinating at least 3 weeks prior to tupping with Toxovax to prevent Toxoplasma abortion. Ewe lambs can be vaccinated from 5 months of age and a single vaccination should protect them for life. Toxovax can be administered at the same time as Enzootic abortion vaccine (**Enzovax** or **Cevac Chlamydophila**). Because Toxovax only has a short shelf life (once we receive the vaccine it needs to be used within approximately 10 days) it needs to be ordered by us from the manufacturers on a special prescription stating the approximate date that the vaccine will be required. Even if you are unable to vaccinate before the end of August it is worthwhile ordering the vaccine now for delivery in September/ October because if supply problems occur (as they have done in previous years) long standing orders will receive preferential treatment over last minute orders at the manufacturers.

If you are unsure whether Toxoplasmosis is a problem in your flock you can have a selection of ewes blood tested which have either been barren or aborted to check for evidence of exposure to Toxoplasma. The lab fees for this testing are free of charge up until the end of July using the MSD flockcheck scheme. Please contact the surgery for further details.



JULY 2019



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