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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2018

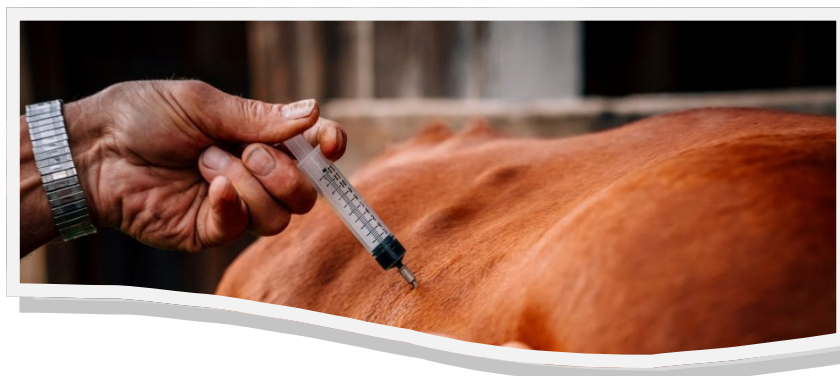
RED TRACTOR FARM ASSURANCE Responsible Use Of Antibiotics

The UK livestock industry is being asked to reduce the use of certain categories of antibiotics which are classed as being 'critically important'. **Critically important antibiotics (CIA's) are categorised because of the 'degree of risk to human health should antimicrobial resistance develop after use in animals'**. Critically important antibiotics include 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins such as:

- Naxcel
- Cevaxel
- Cobactan Tubes
- Cobactan Injection
- Cephaguard Dry Cow Tubes

And fluoroquinolones such as:

- Marbocyl
- Advocin



From 1st June 2018 the Red Tractor Farm Assurance requirements have altered so that 'Highest Priority CIA's must only be used as a **last resort under veterinary direction**' and that they can only be used '**if supported by a veterinary report outlining the need based on either antibiotic sensitivity testing or diagnostic testing which needs to be recorded for each individual animal treated**'.

In practical terms what this means is that we shall not be able to dispense critically important antibiotics for animals which have not been individually seen by us and the use of a critically important antibiotics may only be justified in situations where other products are likely to be ineffective.

In a further change to the Red Tractor Standards, from the 1st June it is recommended that '**at least one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training and holds a certificate of competence**'. We shall be holding courses for dairy, beef and sheep farmers on 'The Responsible Use of Medicines' over the next few months which will qualify as approved training for farm assurance and result in the issuing of a certificate of competence. To register an interest and to be informed of dates and venues when courses are taking place please contact Anne or Louise at the surgery.

We realise that these changes may sound extreme to some but if you wish to discuss the use of critically important antibiotics on farm and alternative non-critically important antibiotics which can be used in their place please contact us at the surgery.

Useful websites:

https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/Farmers-6911.pdf?_=636585118782523499

https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/Farmers-6910.pdf?_=636583555358244844

Critically Important Antibiotics

3rd & 4th Generation Cephalosporins

- **Naxcel**
- **Cevaxel**
- **Ceftiocyl**
- **Excenel**
- **Cobactan Lactating Cow Tubes**
- **Cobactan Injection**
- **Cephaguard Dry Cow Tubes**

Fluoroquinolones

- **Marbocyl**
- **Advocin**
- **Baytril**



In-House Somatic Cell Count and Bacteriology Testing



Following on from the article regarding the responsible use of antibiotics, farmers who have been regularly using Cobactan MC tubes may benefit from re-appraising reasons for mastitis on their farm.

In the surgery lab we can provide quick milk somatic cell counts for individual cows and bacteriology testing to determine the infection causing bacteria.



Used alongside with your farm data these tests offer valuable information. Identifying causes that could be environmental or contagious allows preventative strategies as well as most appropriate treatment options to be discussed.

The quick turnaround Somatic Cell Count can be used to improve selective dry cow decision. Cows under 50,000 cells and 1st lactation heifers under 150,000 cells have an equal chance of mastitis in the next lactation if not treated as those treated with a dry cow tube.

CATTLE POUR– ON FLY CONTROL

Early season fly numbers may seem low but they will be laying large numbers of eggs so that when conditions become suitable a low fly count can become a big problem in just a few weeks. Treating cows early in the season before their numbers have multiplied rapidly is optimal for control of fly numbers.

This year we are stocking Spotinor in the surgery with the option of supplying Flypor or Butox swish for next day collection.

For more information please contact the surgery.



BLOWFLY STRIKE ALERT - MEDIUM RISK

The NADIS blowfly forecast suggests that weather conditions in this area mean that local flocks are currently at **MEDIUM RISK** of blowfly strike caused by female flies being active and laying eggs. Carcasses, dirty backends, footrot lesions and open wounds are all good candidates for egg laying sites. Strike can develop very quickly with the first maggots appearing within 12 hours of eggs being laid.

Pour on treatments are available for the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike with varying durations of action and meat withdrawls. Klik, Klik Extra and Klikzin are insect growth regulators and are suitable for prevention of blowfly strike, whereas Crovect, Dysect and Ectofly can be used both for prevention and treatment of established blowfly strikes. For more information about which product may be most appropriate for your flock please contact the surgery.

Length Of Protection								
	Meat Withdrawal	Approx Cost/Week For 10-20kg Lamb	June	July	August	September	October	November
	40 Days	4p	19 Weeks					
	40 Days	4.4p	16 Weeks					
	7 Days	7.3p	8 Weeks					
	8 Days	4.9p	6 Weeks					
	49 Days	3.8p	8 Weeks					
	8 Days	3.3p	6 Weeks					

CHECK STOCK DAILY FOR ANY SIGNS OF STRIKE

- Discomfort
- Irritation/Restlessness
- Separation from flock
- Damp/Discoloured Fleece
- Lameness and Wounds
- Dull and Sick Animals
- Animals Found Dead



The earlier strike is recognised, the more effective treatment will be. Often the struck area is not obvious until the animal is handled and fleece parted.

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 June, July and August.

Sheep need vaccinating with Toxovax to prevent Toxoplasma abortion at least 3 weeks before tupping. Ewe lambs can be vaccinated from 5 months of age. 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 take preference at the manufacturers over last minute requests.

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



EARLY LAMBING IN EWES—REGULIN IMPLANTS

Although we are still seeing the occasional late lambing ewe requiring assistance at the surgery it is already time for early lambing flocks to start thinking of preparing ewes for the tup.

Regulin ear implants can be used to bring forward the natural breeding season by up to 2 months. In a treatment regime tups are kept away from the ewes (out of sight, sound and smell of the ewes) for at least 1 week prior to inserting the implants in the base of the ear until 5 weeks after implanting.

Peak mating takes place 60-70 days after implanting the ewes. To begin lambing at the start of February, Regulin should be administered at the start of July. We would recommend a tup:ewe ratio of 1:20 but we can also implant the tup to improve the quantity and quality of semen produced.

The advantages of using Regulin over sponging include:

- Conception rates are as good as to a totally natural service with no increase in multiple births
- Sheep that don't conceive to their first mating will continue to cycle normally and not return to anoestrus

For more information about Regulin please speak to one of the farm vets.



Parcel Orders

May we politely remind you that farm medicines must be ordered prior to collection. We need to seek veterinary authorisation on all POM-V medicines. Ordering prior to collection also saves waiting time as well as ensuring that requested items are in stock to save you wasted journey!

Gisburn Auction Mart

Parcels which are to be collected at the Gisburn Auction Mart office on Thursday must be ordered by 3pm on the Wednesday to allow for authorisation and preparation.

Thank you for anticipated co-operation in this matter.

JUNE 2018



www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

