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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2025

BESTICO BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF FLIES

Last year the vet tech team were involved with the distribution of Bestico fly control over several dairy and beef farms. Each farm had an initial assessment where a bespoke plan was created to target problem areas. This plan was tailored to areas in which the farmers struggle with fly control. The vet techs distributed the fly control every fortnight from spring until early autumn for maximum effect.

The main products used:

1. **Biowasp** which is a parasitic wasp that targets the fly pupae in straw buildings, calf pens, hutches and muck midden heaps.
2. **Biofly** which predate on fly larvae – ideal for slurry tanks, channels, collection pits and lagoons.
3. **Bucket traps** which targeted the adult stage of flies around the farmyard. Excellent for cow tracks leading to the parlour and around slurry stores.

We set up some fly roll to monitor the fly population from before we started the Bestico treatment and observed it every two weeks. We could see a great reduction in the population of flies which showed that it was a successful treatment. These pictures show the reduction in flies over two distributions of the Biowasp.



After speaking with the farms that took part we had some great feedback - they were all keen to go ahead with the programme this season. One farmer used Biofly near his parlour and was extremely impressed with it. He said, 'milking time was reduced by at least half an hour because the cows were much more content and weren't kicking their clusters off due to being less distressed with flies'.

Another farmer who used the Biowasp in their calf pens said that 'the calves were so much quieter and seemed much less agitated with flies in the peak of summer and fly season'. This year will be his third year of using the Bestico fly control, and he won't be looking back! A few farmers installed the fly trap buckets and saw fantastic results. Pictures to show the significant number of flies captured. One of the farmers who had the buckets along his cow track said that when it came to



milking time, 'the cows seemed to bring less flies with them and this meant that less fly repellent was used in the parlour'.

For more information please contact the surgery and speak with one of the vet tech team.

WORMING OPTIONS FOR DAIRY YOUNGSTOCK AT TURNOUT

First season grazing dairy heifer replacements will be turned out with no immunity to gutworms and, unless vaccinated for lungworm with **Huskvac**, totally susceptible to lungworm.

To keep animals healthy and maintain growth rates various control strategies are used to reduce their exposure to worms (e.g. use of clean grazing), but typically the fields that they graze are the same fields that youngstock were grazed on the previous year and therefore likely to be heavily infected.

Depending on how practical it is to handle animals after they are turned out various control strategies are available, some of which allow a better immunity to develop than others. Speak to one of our vets or SQP's for more information.

Drug	Pros	Cons	Approx Cost
LONG ACTING INJECTION <i>Cydectin 10% LA Injection</i> Inject into the base of the ear Withdrawal 108 days Do not use in dairy cattle within 80 days of calving.	Easy application One application Persistent for 120 days for <i>O. Ostertagi</i> and lungworm This gives good growth rates and there is no worm damage to the animal Use in animals that will go for fattening.	Persistency means all worms are killed but no residual immunity developed in the animal for future protection whilst wormer is active Don't use within 80 days of lactation in dairy cattle.	£4.40 dose 200kg exc. VAT approx
LONG ACTING POUR-ON For example: <i>Dectomax pour-on 5mg/ml</i> <i>Taurador pour-on 5mg/ml</i> Apply to clean healthy skin 1ml/10kg Withdrawal meat 35 days.	Easy application Persistency means there is a good worm kill which decreases pasture contamination and increases growth rates Persists 5 weeks <i>O. Ostertagi</i> and 6 weeks lungworm.	Need 2 applications – one at turnout and one 10 weeks later Don't use within 60 days of lactation in dairy cattle.	90p/dose 200kg exc. VAT approx (2 doses required)
SHORT ACTING POUR-ON Apply 3, 8 & 13 weeks after turn out For example <i>Enovex pour-on, Animec pour-on</i> 1 ml/10kg Withdrawal meat 28 days.	Good immunity developed for breeding stock Works by animal getting exposure to worms then killing worms before they have significant ill effects Effective against lice.	Have to handle three times after turnout Dose 3, 8 and 13 weeks after turnout Do not use Ivermectins within 60 days of lactation in dairy cattle.	21p/dose 200kg exc. VAT approx (3 doses required)
SUSTAINED RELEASE BOLUS <i>Panacur Bolus</i> Give bolus at turnout Withdrawal meat 200 days.	Easy administration Give at turnout - no extra handling Allows animal to pick worms up but kills them before they affect growth rates, allows cattle to develop immunity.	Cost Not to be used within 200 days of calving.	Approx £13.50 per bolus

THE NATIONAL JOHNE'S MANAGEMENT PLAN (NJMP) UPDATE

The National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP) launched phase 3 on Monday 31st March 2025. Phases 1 and 2 sought to control and reduce the incidence of Johnes's disease. The objective for phase 3 is unchanged and keeps the basic structure of the NJMP which requires regular vet/farmer dialogue focusing on risk management and implementation of an appropriate control strategy. This will continue to be backed up by annual certification. Key changes for phase 3 include:

- All herds must obtain an Average Test Value (ATV) for their herd to help assess the level of disease present and allow progress to be tracked over time
- The minimum requirement to generate an ATV will be a [60 cow random screen](#). **The 30 cow targeted screen is no longer an acceptable option**
- The creation of a national Johnes's Control Index target of ATV 5.5 with a goal to achieve this by 2030.

The ability, through the creation of a national Johnes's Tracker database, to track progress nationally using ATV % incidence and other drivers of infection within herds. From 31st March 2025, any farm undergoing their annual NJMP review must adhere to phase 3 requirements and a new declaration form must be signed. This remains a Red Tractor requirement. For more information, please speak to one of the farm vets.

ARKGUARD

Following on from our previous newsletter article on Arkguard, we would like to tell you a little more about the product and how it works to prevent watery mouth cases in your lambs. Arkguard is an oral supplement for the prevention of watery mouth in lambs. It contains a high concentration of an immunoglobulin – IgY. Immunoglobulins are the proteins present in colostrum which provide immunity for the newborn to prevent infections. Most commercially available probiotics do not provide supplementation of immunity directly but are more of an energy supply to support the lamb.

Watery mouth is caused by the bacterium *E.coli* and when ingested causes scour and sepsis often resulting in death despite best efforts with treatment. There is increasing antibiotic resistance to *E.coli* as we spoke about last month, and with increasing efforts to reduce antibiotic usage it is a good time to look at a new product that we can use to help prevent this disease.



2ml of Arkguard into the mouth at birth will protect the lamb from watery mouth for 48 hours. 2ml contains a high concentration of IgY which coats the lining of the gut preventing harmful bacteria, especially *E.coli*, multiplying and causing disease. Arkguard does not need to be kept in the fridge, and you have 12 months shelf life once opened. Remember to change your syringe often, as not doing so is a quick way to spread bacteria from one lamb to the next!

As ever, this is not a replacement for good colostrum management and lambing time hygiene, but is an aid to reducing disease prevalence in vulnerable lambs.



Back in February we introduced you all to a new navel treatment; NoBACZ Navel. We have asked clients who have used the product for feedback and this is what they had to say.

'The product delivered a faster drying rate in comparison to iodine and other alternative navel treatments used'. Feedback

LICK-RESISTANT &
RAPID DRY TIME



2H POST DIP



24H POST DIP

NoBACZ Navel dessicates the navel in just 2 hours.
Lasting protection, no reapplication, no licking.'

also highlighted a reduced incidence of ewes licking the navel area. Although the majority of our clients have only just started using the product, the larger commercial flocks reported no cases of joint ill had been seen. Please continue reading to learn more about NoBACZ Navel treatment.

Joint ill/stiff lambs are a cause of concern and frustration for many sheep farmers at lambing time. We know about the importance of sufficient intakes of good quality colostrum, hygiene in the lambing pens and prompt navel disinfection to help avoid problems. This year as an alternative to dipping navels in a strong iodine solution NoBACZ Navel has been launched.

NoBACZ Navel is a unique, rapid setting and long lasting solution for navel dipping in lambs and calves. It rapidly disinfects and dries the navel in as little as 2 hours and seals with a colourful natural resin that forms a long lasting waterproof barrier to protect against bacteria entering from the environment. It can also be used on the area around ear tags on both lambs and calves.

Combining the traditional cleaning and drying agent ethanol with a unique barrier offering long lasting protection from environmental pathogen, NoBACZ Navel is antibiotic free and consists of a natural polymer with metal ions. It can be applied by dipping or spraying and contains a bitter agent to deter ewe or cow interference. For more details contact the surgery.



HEPTAVAC P

Please find below information regarding Heptavac P stock:

- Heptavac P 100ml: Currently in stock.
- Heptavac P 250ml: End of March/early April
- Heptavac P 500ml: Currently in stock.

Please contact the surgery for more information.



SCABIGARD

We currently have good supplies of Scabigard orf vaccine and do not anticipate shortages as the season progresses but if you know your likely requirement it may still be worth ordering early just in case!

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINE COURSE



Dairy farmers! Those of you who have not completed a Medicines Course in the past 5 years need to refresh your training as per the recent Red Tractor updated requirements.

Our next medicine course will be held:

Date: Tuesday 29th April

Venue: The Farm Building, Dalehead Veterinary Group, Settle BD24 9AA

Time: 1pm-3pm

Please contact the surgery to book your place.

CARING FOR YOUR CANINE WORKFORCE

Your working dogs are one of the most valuable piece of equipment on farm, particularly at this time of year, they are also a bit of company. Like all your farm machinery, it is essential to ensure that your canine workforce is running smoothly so they perform well when needed.

At approximately 8 weeks of age a puppy should start it's initial vaccination course. This is usually 2 injections 4 weeks apart and provides immunisation against Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus (DHP) and Leptospirosis (L4). This protection requires an annual top up with a booster vaccination; every year for the L4 with the addition of the DHP every third year. Leptospirosis is a common bacterial disease spread by rats, and the majority of sick dogs diagnosed with Lepto that we see in the practice are from a farming background. Affected dogs typically become very unwell and require intense treatment and lengthy hospitalisation. Vaccination is therefore recommended every 12 months.

Regular worming treatments not only ensure our canine staff stay fit and healthy but also our livestock, as farm dogs can play a role in the transmission of tapeworms. Tapeworms are ingested from infected carcasses, the dog then goes on to shed thousands of eggs in their faeces which can survive for up to 6 months on pasture. Once eggs are ingested by sheep, they develop larval cysts which can result in whole carcass rejection at slaughter.

Roundworms should also be regularly treated. The roundworm toxocariasis can impact human health, if ingested the worm can spread to parts of the body such as the liver, lungs or eyes. Although not a common occurrence, it can cause serious problems like difficulty breathing or loss of vision.

For more information, please contact the surgery.



PRODUCT NEWS

LAMBING TIME ESSENTIALS

For those of you who don't know, we also stock a range of lambing time essentials including...

- Lamb colostrum
- Lamb milk
- Iodine
- Marksman sprays
- Marking crayons
- Castration Rings & Applicators
- Vet lube
- Lamb feeder bottles and teats
- Feeding tubes
- Ewe prolapse harness
- Lambing snare & ropes
- Injector & dosing guns
- And much more!!

