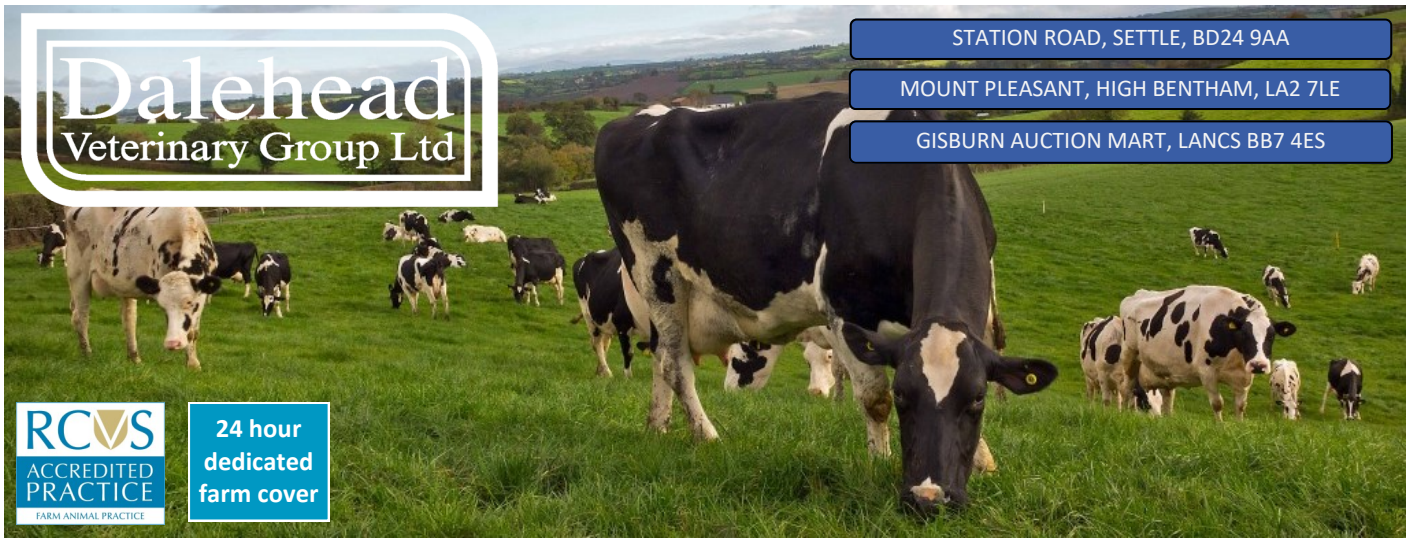

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2017

Worming strategies for youngstock through summer

When dairy heifer replacements are turned out for their first grazing season they will be fully susceptible to gutworm infections. The fields they graze are typically the same fields that youngstock were grazed on the previous year (therefore likely to be heavily infected) and away from the main farm buildings which can make repeated worm treatments through the summer impractical. A variety of worming options are available ranging from worming boluses administered at turnout, long acting injections administered behind the ear at turnout and short or long acting pour on wormers which need to be repeated during the summer. The aim of any worming programme is to allow the animals chance to pick up worm burdens (so that they will develop an immunity to the infection) but to treat them to eliminate the worm burden so that health and growth rates are not affected. A summary of treatment options with pros and cons and approximate costs is included in the table below. To discuss which plan is most appropriate for you or for a quote please contact the surgery.

Drug	Pros	Cons	Approx. Cost/200kg (exc. VAT)
LONG ACTING INJECTION *Cydectin 10% LA Injection* Inject into the base of the ear Withdrawal 108 days Do not use in dairy cattle within 80 days of lactation	Easy application One application Lasts 120 days for O. Ostertagi 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	£3.50
LONG ACTING POUR-ON *For example* *Dectomax pour-on 5mg/ml* 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 O. Ostertagi 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	75p/dose (2 doses required)
SHORT ACTING POUR-ON Apply 3, 8 &13 weeks after turn out *For example* *Animec pour-on* 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 (3 doses re-quired)
PULSE RELEASE BOLUS *Autoworm* *Give bolus at turnout* Withdrawal meat 8 months	Easy administration Give at turnout- no extra handling Pulses drug throughout grazing season killing worm infection allows cattle develop immunity	Cost	Finisher £14.00 (approx.) 1st Grazer (approx.) £16.75
SUSTAINED RELEASE BOLUS Panacur Give bolus at turnout Withdrawal meat	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	Less than £9 (approx.) dependent on volume

Are you aware of the importance of bacterial pneumonia in bovine respiratory disease?

Over the years it has generally been thought that most calf pneumonias are caused by viruses (PI3, RSV and IBR) and that bacteria act as secondary invaders of lung tissue already damaged by the initial viral infection. Most pneumonia vaccines are aimed at protecting against these viruses.

Recently work has been done showing that many pneumonias may in fact be caused primarily by bacterial infections such as *Mannhaemia (Pasteurella) Haemolytica, Histophilus (Haemophilus) Somni* and *Mycoplasma Bovis*. As well as other presentations these bacteria are likely to be responsible for

1) Respiratory infections in calves which result in one ear drooping or a head tilt (due to inner ear infection)
2) Acute, severe cases of pneumonia in suckler calves while outside at grass in summer which can often be unresponsive to treatment.

Recently a new bacterial pneumonia vaccine **(Hiprabovis Somni/LKT)** has been launched which gives protection against 2 of the most common bacteria which cause pneumonia (Histophilus Somni and Mannhaemia (Pasteurella) Haemolytica). The vaccine course consists of 2 subcutaneous injections 3 weeks apart. The vaccine can be used in conjunction with a viral pneumonia vaccine if necessary.

If you would like to know more about Hiprabovis Somni LKT and whether it would be appropriate for your farm, please speak with one of the farm vets.

DALEHEAD DISEASE UPDATE - FLUKE IN CATTLE

In the last few weeks in the practice we have seen a number of in-calf suckler cows that have been affected by fluke. They have generally been thin and some had pokes under their chin. Last back end was a good year for fluke with ideal weather conditions (or a bad year for stock being infected depending on how you look at it). A number of the cattle we have seen with fluke were treated at housing. We believe there is an increased problem this year due to a combination of resistance to certain products, the cattle having a large fluke burden and immature fluke being left untreated with mature flukicide products. Our recommendation is to treat with a mature flukicide now or just before turnout or bring us a faecal sample to check for fluke eggs.

How to sample for a faecal egg count (FEC)

- Sample ten animals per group. Don't mix age groups.
- Loosely gather 10 of the group to be sampled into a corner for a few minutes, then pick up samples after they move off or walk around the group and collect fresh samples as they get up and move away.
- We need 5 grams of faeces for a worm egg count and 30 grams for a fluke egg count.
- It is very important that samples are taken randomly. DO NOT seek out scouring or dry animals, this will give a false result.
- Samples must be collected fresh on the same day they are tested. Keep the samples cool but not frozen.
- Bring the 10 samples to us labelled with your name and the group of animals sampled. The samples are best pooled by us in the lab to give a single result rather than randomly mixing different volumes from different animals.

Orf and Orf Vaccine

Orf is a highly contagious viral skin disease, primarily of sheep and goats, which can also infect humans. Orf virus can survive off the sheep in a dry environment (such as lambing sheds) for many years so that once on a farm, infection is likely to carry over from one year to the next. It is also possible for adult ewes to be symptomless carriers of orf.

Orf virus gains entry into the body through breaks in the skin. In young lambs this often appears to be around the gums where teeth are pushing through. In the milder form of the disease symptoms include blisters on the lips and corners of the mouth. The incubation period (time from picking the infection up to showing symptoms) is only a few days. Invariably affected lambs lose weight and may stop sucking altogether. Infection can pass to the teats of ewes with mastitis often being the costly consequence.

Orf lesions will usually heal in 6—8 weeks. Because orf is a viral infection antibiotic sprays and injections are only of use in treating secondary bacterial infection of the lesions. Remember to wear gloves when treating lambs with orf lesions.

Orf vaccine (Scabivax Forte) can be used on young lambs to limit the clinical impact of orf in a flock. Because it is a live vaccine, Scabivax Forte should only be used in flocks with a previous history of orf infection. Lambs can be vaccinated (scratched) from a very young age (as soon as they are dry and have suckled). However, if indoor lambs are being vaccinated this should be ideally done as they are turned out to reduce environmental contamination of the lambing sheds with vaccinal virus. Lambs should be vaccinated on the hairless skin between the top of the foreleg and the chest wall (not on the inside of the thigh on the back leg).

In young lambs the vaccine is administered as a single line scratch. Between seven and ten days after vaccination, a random sample of the flock should be examined to make sure there has been a satisfactory vaccine 'take'. The vaccine takes four to eight weeks for full immunity to be established. In a heavily infected environment it is still possible for reduced lesions of orf to appear in young lambs while the immunity to the vaccine is being established.