



FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2022

Worming Options For Youngstock After 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. Summarised below are some of the options with benefits and disadvantages and an approximation of cost. 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 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.	£3.70 dose 200kg exc. VAT approx
LONG ACTING POUR-ON <i>For example:</i> <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 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 200kg exc. VAT approx (2 doses required)
SHORT ACTING POUR-ON Apply 3, 8 & 13 weeks after turn out <i>For example</i> <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)
PULSE RELEASE BOLUS <i>Autoworm</i> 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 Not to use within 8 months of calving.	1st Grazer £16.75 (approx.)
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 £12-£13 per bolus

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.

GRASS STAGGERS

Grass staggers, or grass tetany, is a metabolic disease caused by low magnesium (hypomagnesaemia) in the diet. The disease can affect both cattle and sheep. Although animals have sufficient magnesium stored within the body, there is very little readily available in the blood. This means that most of the magnesium necessary for proficient immunity and normal nerve and muscle function must be attained directly from the diet.

With the upcoming warmer weather, combined with sufficient rainfall, grass growth will flourish, young swards are typically high in phosphorus and low in magnesium. With turnout onto lush grass it is often tempting to relax any additional feeding, however, magnesium should not be overlooked. Other causes of low magnesium may be linked to increased demand in milk production or decreased grass supply/intake due to cold, wet weather. Typical symptoms include:

- Loss of appetite
- Decreased milk production
- Nervousness
- Increased alertness (eyes, pricked ears, flared nostrils, head held high)
- Unusually aggressive behaviour
- Stiff movements often described as staggering.

Untreated, the disease will affect major organs, causing uncontrolled fluttering of muscles (tetany), including the heart muscle, resulting in death. There are several ways to ensure sufficient magnesium supply into the diet while at grass including:

- Magnesium bolus by mouth
- Flakes in water
- Mineral buckets.

If you are concerned about your farm's magnesium levels or similar symptoms, call and talk it through with one of our farm vets.



Managing Downer Cows

Further to the recent farming documentary broadcast on the BBC, some farming practices have been criticised resulting in the BCVA (British Cattle Veterinary Association) publishing a 'Downer Cow Management Guide' identifying the best management practices.

Regardless of why a cow is down there are several key points to follow when it comes to managing her condition. Early diagnosis is essential as it can allow prompt treatment. If the cow does not respond to the treatment as expected within 24 hours or less, in some situations, veterinary intervention is required to find the cause.



- A cow can suffer from muscle damage from being unable to stand which can be secondary to the initial problem such as milk fever
- Fractures and other injuries should be ruled out
- Pain relief is a must in all cases
- Ensure the cow is turned from side to side every 3 hours approximately, flex and extend the limbs each time the cow is moved
- Access to food and water at all times is crucial. Persuading them to eat something as often as possible will also assist with recovery and strength building
- Deep bedding is a must. This applies to when the cow is inside or out as the bedded area under the cow reduces the pressure on the muscles
- Lactating cows should be regularly milked either by hand or by using a mobile milking machine
- Lifters (e.g. hip lifters, stretchers) can be useful tools to help cows to their feet. Lifting allows blood to flow through the muscles but please take care
- When moving a down cow use a smooth bucket on a loader or roll the cow onto a board on the pallet forks. The whole animal should be supported.

For more information or guidance, please contact the surgery.

NEMATODIRUS ALERT

A reminder that it's got to the time of year again to start checking the SCOPS Nematodirus forecast for risk of hatches <https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast/>

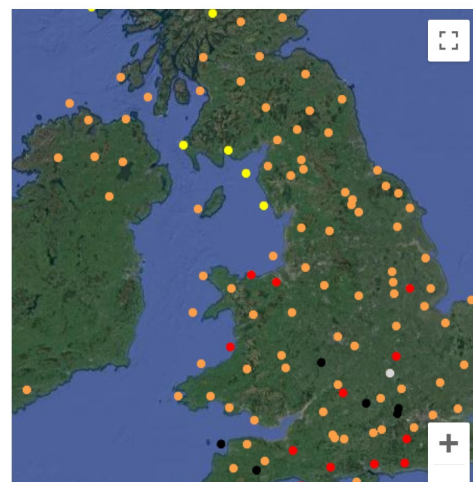
The two forecasting stations closest to us (Shap and Stoneyhurst) are at moderate risk at the moment, this will increase to high then very high when/if the warm weather we have had returns. Remember the south facing lower grazing will have Nemi hatches before the hill pastures.

Nematodirus causes sudden and severe diarrhoea in lambs which can cause death. Pastures which have been grazed the previous year by lambs are high risk as eggs over winter and hatch when the weather becomes warmer after a cold snap. When the temperature reaches above 10°C and lambs are around 6 weeks of age they will be at risk.

It is advised to avoid grazing lambs on the same pastures each year to prevent high Nematodirus burdens. Scouring, dehydrated, poorly or unthrifty lambs need to be investigated promptly. Although the larvae stages of Nematodirus cause the most damage, getting faecal egg count samples to us can identify if coccidiosis is also present as it too displays similar clinical symptoms. One product will not treat both so getting a diagnosis is important so we can treat them appropriately.

Nematodirus is treated effectively by all groups of wormers however we advise using a white drench if it is only Nematodirus which we are targeting – be cautious however as other worms may be present so sampling and getting a diagnosis is an advantage – as an alternative group of wormer may be more beneficial.

Grazing management should also be considered and discussed to reduce worm burdens and therefore anthelmintic resistance on your farm.



Risk at a Glance

Each dot on the map represents a weather station. Zoom in on the map and click on the weather station closest to you - but **read more below** on how the information relates to your holding.

- Negligible Risk
- Low Risk
- Moderate Risk
- High Risk
- Very High Risk

PRODUCT NEWS

Hydrafast

Hydrafast is a new electrolyte sachet for feeding to scouring calves. Hydrafast contains more energy than other electrolyte sachets.

- Research has shown that continuing milk feeding during calf scour is very important to maintain calf strength and aid recovery. However, Hydrafast is much more effective than milk at rehydrating the calf and preventing metabolic acidosis, keeping the calf bright. Using Hydrafast alongside milk from the onset of scour is vital.
- At first signs of scour feed 2 litres of prepared Hydrafast solution twice daily and continue for at least 2 days.
- Also continue milk feeding the calf or allow calf to suckle as normal if possible. Ongoing nutrition from milk is vital in the calf's recovery. If milk feeding, ensure a 3-hour gap between Hydrafast and milk feeding.
- Administer Hydrafast orally, preferably using a feeding bottle with teat. Alternatively, you may use bucket or tube feeding.



Consider bringing a calf to the surgery to be put on an intravenous drip if:

- It is unable to sit up
- The calf is extremely depressed with no suckle reflex
- The calf still appears dehydrated after 48 hours of treatment for scours.



Closantel Based Fluke Drenches

Closantel based fluke drenches for sheep (Flukiver/Solantel) are currently unavailable from the manufacturers. Speak to one of the farm vets for an appropriate alternatives.

Heptavac-P

Has been unavailable but we now have 100ml and 500ml bottles in stock.

Cevac Chlamydia Enzoootic abortion vaccine

Discounts are currently available on vaccine purchased before the end of April. **50 dose expiry date:** August 2022 & November 2022 **20 dose expiry date:** November 2022



LAB NEWS

Coccidiosis in Lambs

There are high coccidiosis counts in 6-8 week old lambs already. **It is really important to sample to allow us to dose for cocci at the right time. Dosing too early is an expensive waste of drug and too late causes large losses in terms of deaths and weight gains.**

Worms

There have been some spectacularly high worm egg counts in both ewes and young sheep (shearlings and hogs) requiring treatment. **However, blanket dosing will speed resistance! Ideally we would recommend sampling.** If you are dosing, **leave at least 10% undosed.**

Fluke

The fluke egg counts in sheep have been mostly negative this spring but don't forget to test pooled samples from adult cows prior to turnout because if they are carrying adult flukes and shedding eggs these will be the likely source of fluke problems later this year.

Itchy Sheep

We have continued to diagnose numerous cases of sheep scab from skin scrapings taken from itchy sheep. Treatment options in pregnant sheep or small lambs are limited. Whilst dipping with an O/P dip is usually the most effective treatment for sheep scab, dipping heavily pregnant sheep is not an option. For ewes with lambs at foot, some injectable products should not be used in young lambs due to risks of overdosing and toxicity. **Please speak to one of the farm vets before treating lambs for scab.**



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