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24 hour
dedicated

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2017

Ischaemic Teat Necrosis in Cattle



Ischaemic Teat Necrosis appears to be a relatively new condition which presents as a dry, dark red to black area on the skin at the base of the teat that can rapidly spread to extend down the teat towards the teat end and/or up onto the skin of the udder. These lesions are highly irritable to the cow and can cause her to constantly lick her teats causing self harm and in severe cases the loss of affected teats. The lesion appears to be mostly confined to the skin and does not directly cause mastitis.



The cause of the disease, how widespread the disease is in the UK and the risk factors associated with the disease are all unknown although new calved heifers seem to be most susceptible and it has been postulated that the same organisms that cause digital dermatitis might be involved.

As the cause of bovine Ischaemic Teat Necrosis (ITN) is currently unknown, research into the disease is essential. AHDB Dairy are funding work at the University of Liverpool to investigate the disease. They are keen to hear from anyone with experience of the disease no matter how small the information. If you have had cases please contact vet [Hayley at Liverpool University](#) on 07765 456529 or via email hcrosby@liverpool.ac.uk. For updates and further information please go to www.liverpool.ac.uk/BovineITN.

Toxoplasma and Enzootic Abortion Vaccine Order

Toxovax is the only vaccine available to protect ewes against Toxoplasma abortion. The vaccine should be administered at least 3 weeks prior to tupping and needs to be ordered on a special prescription by us from the manufacturers stating the approximate date the vaccine will be required. Once the vaccine is delivered to us it needs to be used within approximately 7 days. **MSD are offering an additional 5% discount on Toxovax orders delivered before the end of August (approximately 25p additional discount per dose).**

Enzootic abortion vaccine (Enzovax or Cevac Chlamydophila) needs to be given at least 4 weeks prior to tupping and can be given at the same time as Toxovax. A new user discount scheme is available for first time vaccinators.



LUNGWORM DISEASE IN CATTLE (HUSK)

August and September are the most common times of year for seeing clinical cases of lungworm in cattle. Most commonly affected are dairy replacement calves in their first grazing season on land grazed by youngstock the previous year, although suckler calves and adult cows can also be affected.

Clinical Signs

- Early clinical signs will include an increased respiratory rate at rest with coughing when moved..
- Severe cases will become reluctant to move with their heads down and necks extended, coughing frequently even at rest.
- In dairy cows there is a reduction in milk yield with widespread coughing especially as cows are walking to and from the parlour.

Life Cycle

Overwintered larvae which can survive on pasture from one year to the next are usually the initial source of infection although some animals can be symptomless carriers.

Larvae consumed off infected pasture by a susceptible animal penetrate through the gut wall and migrate to the lungs. This process takes approximately one week. The larvae then start moving through the lungs setting off an inflammatory reaction and narrowing of the airways. In heavily infected animals there may be thousands of worms present which result in such a severe lung reaction that death from respiratory distress can occur.

As worms mature in the lungs to become adults they lay eggs which themselves hatch out into larvae and are coughed up and swallowed to be passed out in faeces to further contaminate pasture. One adult worm can produce thousands of eggs to continue the life cycle.

Immunity

First season grazing youngstock are most susceptible to lungworm infection as they have had no previous exposure to stimulate immunity. Huskvac vaccine is available to provide immunity pre-turnout.

Adult cattle build up immunity from vaccination as calves or natural immunity from exposure in their first grazing season. This immunity is not lifelong and needs to be boosted in subsequent grazing seasons by natural exposure.



How is lungworm diagnosed?

- Clinical signs
- Dung samples—dung is examined for the presence of lungworm larvae. This can be performed in our practice laboratory.

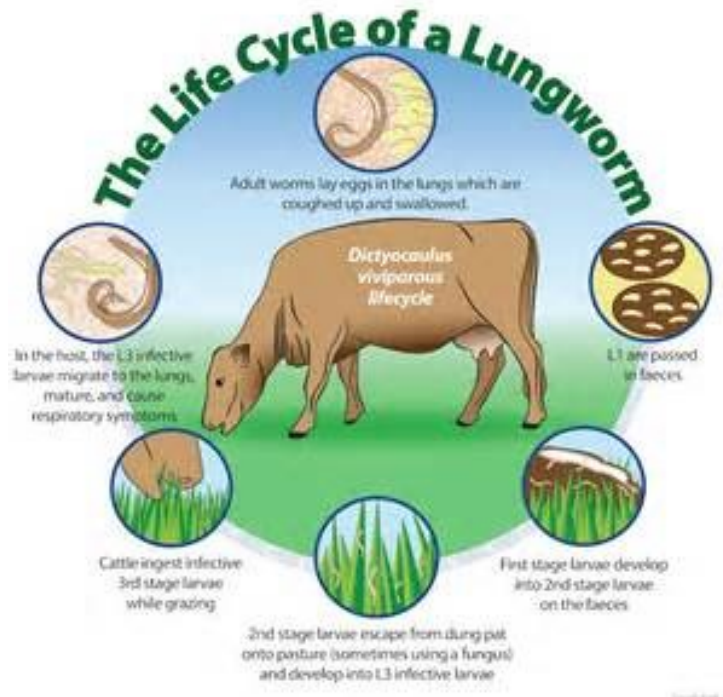
Treatment

Whilst white drenches and levamisoles are effective against lungworm they have no persistent activity, therefore leading to cattle becoming re-infected soon after treatment if grazing contaminated pasture.

Treatment of youngstock is usually with an ivermectin based wormer which, as well as treating for gutworms has a persistent effect for 28 days against lungworm (e.g. [Enovex](#), [Bimectin](#), or [Animec pour-ons](#)).

[Closamectin pour on](#) will also treat for fluke in addition to gutworms and has a 28 day persistent activity against lungworm. [Dectomax pour on](#) has a persistent effect for 6 weeks against lungworm while for dairy cows [Eprinex](#) or [Eprizero pour ons](#) are the only effective treatments with a nil milk withdrawal period.

We currently have on offer on the 6 litre promo-packs of Eprizero. To discuss your cattle worming programme, which products may be most appropriate to use or for a quote please contact the surgery on 01729 823538.



SUMMER SHOWS

Yes, it's that time of year again and the Dalehead team will be attending as many of the local shows as we can muster! We will have a stand at Malham Show on 26th August, Bentham Show on 2nd September and Hodder Valley Show on 9th September so why not come along to our marquee....(okay, tent!) and say hello?

Vets and support staff from both farm and small animal departments will be there with displays on suited topics, information sheets, goody bags and freebies. It is a good chance to talk about clinical matters or just to socialise over a hot beverage (or a warmish beer) with a biscuit or piece of cake.



Suckler Breeding Meeting—a date for your diary!

On Sunday 24th September we are hosting a beef suckler farm open day by kind permission of Tommy and Ian Sedgewick at Gallaber Farm. There will be several presentations and seminars on topics such as selection of bulls and females, for breeding, synchronisation of the breeding cycle as well as some stock judging and lunch. The day is geared up to be relevant to the commercial suckler herd of all beef breeds. Here is an overview of some of the topics we will discuss:

- An easy calving is the key to minimising calf losses, maximising cow longevity and reducing stockman stress levels. A low birth weight calf is the largest factor in this ideal easy calving, this is directly related to the genetics of the sire and dam.

In the cross bred herd, controlling the genetics on the female side is difficult, especially if they are bought in. A cross bred cow can breed like her dam or sire, and the size and muscling of her calf cannot be predicted by just looking at her. We can measure the pelvis of a maiden heifer, which gives us a good idea of how easily she will calve. This is one of the techniques we will demonstrate at the meeting. We will also discuss heifer growth rates and the impact body condition has on calving.

In terms of the male side of the genetics, there is a multitude of measurements and genetic information available on all breeds of bull that give us an insight to the calves they will produce. We can use this information to select for many traits; easy calving, growth rates, muscle depth, fat cover, maternal factors- the list goes on! Deciphering all the information and using it to find breeding stock to breed what you want in your herd on a practical basis is a daunting prospect. In one of our seminars Alison Glasgow will demystify myostatin genes, calving ease, maternal traits, gestation lengths and whatever you ask her about. Alison has a whole wealth of experience at farm level having worked for Signet. She will put all the data into context so you can use it to make a judgement based on looks and science.
- Staying with bull topics, we intend to address the often unrecognised fact that 20% of stock bulls tested are sub fertile. This leads us to the question; 'how many untested bulls are underperforming?' We aim to help you maximise your 'bulling power'.
- There will also be a discussion on synchronising suckler cows for breeding. This is an extremely useful tool for batch calving, and to aid AI. I suspect that after attending the open day many of you will see a need for using different bulls on heifers than are used for the cows, to produce top end show calves or replacement heifers, and may consider AI along with natural service.

We hope to welcome as many of you as possible to our meeting: Please confirm your attendance with Anne at the surgery on 01729 823538 by Wednesday 20th September in order to assist with the catering arrangements.

Meeting Details:

Date: Sunday 24th September 2017

Venue: Gallaber Farm
Burton-in-Lonsdale
LA6 3LU

Time: 11.00 am



**AUGUST
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