FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2020

Moo-ving On!

We are sure that you will join us in wishing Anne Carr all the best as she leaves the practice to spend more time with her family. Anne has been an integral part of the farm team for nearly fifteen years, organising the daybook and farm vets (no mean feat!), giving advice as a L-SQP, ordering and maintaining the stock, organising TB tests, client meetings, and preparing literally thousands of parcels for collection. She will be very much missed by us all.

A message from Anne:

After working at Dalehead for the past fourteen and a half years I have decided it's time to look after my own flock. Dalehead has been a wonderful place to work, I have enjoyed being part of the farm team, working with the vets, looking after your cows, sheep and pets. So no more answering the phones or late nights on call. It's time to say goodbye and farewell. I shall miss you all!

TAPEWORM INFESTATION IN LAMBS

At this time of year many of the dung samples brought into the surgery for worm egg counts contain tapeworm eggs or even clearly visible tapeworm segments which contain many eggs, but how important are tapeworm infestations?

Life Cycle

Moniezia Expansa is the tapeworm commonly affecting sheep and goats. Adult tapeworms are flat, ribbon shaped worms which live in the sheep's intestines and can grow to a metre in length and absorb nutrients through their skin. Mature tapeworms shed segments packed with eggs in the sheep's faeces. The eggs need to be ingested by pasture mites for further development. Sheep and goats become infected when they ingest the mites containing tapeworm larvae. Once inside the animal it takes 6-7 weeks for the larvae to develop into adult tapeworms. Sheep seem to develop an immunity to tapeworms after exposure so tapeworm infestations appear most commonly in lambs under 6 months of age.

Clinical Significance

Although tapeworm infestations can look dramatic with knots of tapeworms or tapeworm segments clearly visible in faeces they usually have little or no adverse effect on lamb performance and are of little clinical significance. White drenches e.g. **Tramazole**, **Rycoben**, **Albex** are the only class of wormer which will kill tapeworms.

Other Tapeworm infections

All tapeworm infections require a final host and an intermediate host to complete the life cycle. The sheep tapeworm (*Moniezia*) has the sheep as the final host and pasture mites as the intermediate host.

Other tapeworms have dogs and foxes as the final host with sheep acting as the intermediate host causing problems in sheep such as gid (sturdy) which is a tapeworm cyst on the brain causing neurological symptoms, hydatid disease and cysticercosis (sheep measles) which can cause trimming or condemnation of the carcase at slaughter due to tissue cysts.

These diseases cannot be controlled by worming sheep but is a good reason for regularly treating dogs on your farm for tapeworms to prevent them passing tapeworm segments onto pasture which can lead to problems when sheep pick them up. As a rough guide adult dogs should be treated every 3 months for tapeworms (e.g. **Milbemax**) and more regularly if tapeworm segments are seen in their faeces.

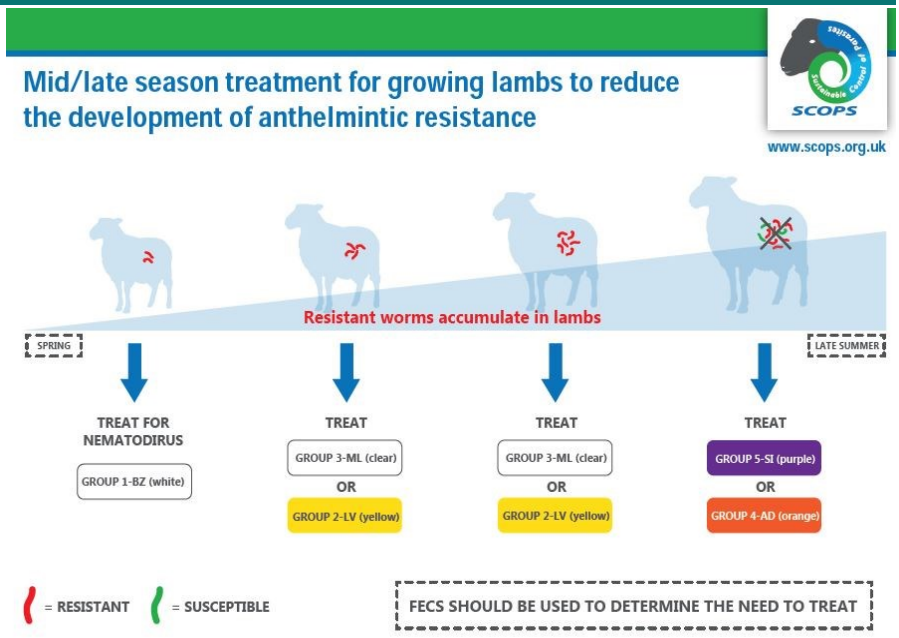
Break worming dose- are you using this strategy ?

Break dose worming is when we use one of the new anthelmintic wormer groups, Group 4-AD Orange or Group 5 -SI purple, as part of the routine wormer programme to help slow resistance to wormers.

Aim

- Kill all resistant worms that have survived the grazing season and reduce the contamination levels for next year
- Maximise growth rates in lambs

It can't be emphasised enough how vitally important it is that we use this strategy correctly. Wormer resistance **is a reality,** and has been seen this year in several flocks. Thankfully the weather has been kind to worm burdens this year but think what a pickle we will be in if we break the "break" dose and develop resistance to these new classes of wormers.



Some top tips are

DO	**Dose late in the season after we have used the other groups of wormers.**
If you dose too early the lambs won't have been exposed to all worms and you are not getting the benefit. The timing is therefore going to be different for lowland, early lambers to April born horned lambs	
DON'T	**Never dose and move with this strategy.**
It is important that lambs have exposure to worm burden straight away after dosing to prevent developing resistance to G4 or G5	
DO	**Dose all the lambs , don't leave the minimum 10 % undosed as recommended when using Group 1,2 or 3 wormers.**
The aim is to clear out all worms, not leave a mixed population to dilute resistant ones.	
DO	**Do a WEC to make sure there are worms present at a sufficient level.**
There is absolutely no point dosing if there is not a worm burden.	
DO	**Do a post drench test to monitor for resistance.**
DON'T	**NEVER dose adult sheep with G4 or G5 wormers as a break dose.**
The only time these wormers should be used in adult sheep is as a quarantine dose. See next months newsletter!	

Footrot Vaccination of Ewes

Lameness is one of the most important health and welfare issues facing sheep farmers. Footrot is thought to be involved in up to 80% of lameness cases, and many flocks will have over 5% of sheep limping at any one time.

Footvax is a highly effective footrot vaccine which can be a very important part of any lameness control programme. Many farmers vaccinate ewes with a single dose of **Footvax** at this time of year to provide protection before the period of anticipated risk during the winter months. Rams will also benefit from being vaccinated but this should ideally be done at least 6 weeks prior to tupping.

Footvax is available in 20, 50 and 250 dose bottles. To find out more about lameness control in sheep or for more information about **Footvax** or for a quote please visit our website (under Fact sheets and Presentations) or speak to one of the farm vets or Suitably Qualified Persons.

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 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 1 week. The larvae then start moving through the lungs setting off an inflammatory reaction and narrowing of the airways. In heavily infested animals there may be thousands of worms present which can 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 grazing season 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 life-long and needs to be boosted in subsequent grazing seasons by a natural level of exposure.

How is lungworm diagnosed?

- Clinical signs.
- **Dung Samples – examination for the presence of lungworm larvae. This can be done in our practice laboratory.**

Treatment Options

Whilst white drenches and levimasole based drenches/pour-ons are effective against adult lungworms they have no persistent activity leading to cattle becoming re-infected if they continue to graze contaminated pasture. Treatment of youngstock is usually with an ivermectin based pour-on which as well as treating for gutworms also has a persistent effect for 28 days against lungworm (e.g. ENOVEX, BIMECTIN or ANIMEC pour-ons) or 42 day persistency against lungworm (DECTOMAX or CYDECTIN pour-ons). CLOSAMECTIN pour-on will also treat for fluke in addition to gutworms and a 28 day persistent activity against lungworm. For dairy cows EPRINEX or EPRIZERO pour-ons are effective treatments with a 28 day persistent effect and a nil milk withhold period.

This year EPRECIS injection is available with a nil milk withhold and is recommended when treatment of the most susceptible animals in a group is suggested (i.e. milking heifers, new calved cows and milking sub-optimally) rather than blanket treatment of the whole group.

As well as saving money this approach helps to prevent development of wormer resistance. For more information or for a quote please contact the surgery.

PRODUCT NEWS

FOSTON INJECTION

Foston Injection has been used by many farmers to supply extra phosphorus to downer cows when suffering with milk fever. Milk fever, caused by calcium deficiency, can become complicated by an additional shortage of phosphorus. We have been advised that Foston injection is no longer being manufactured but we have secured supplies of an alternative product Vigophos which can be used at the same dose rate as Foston.

For more information please contact the surgery and speak to a member of the farm team.

MILKING COW TUBES

As many of you will be aware there are currently very limited options of lactating cow tubes available for treating mastitis. *Ubro Yellow* and *Lactoclox* have ceased production never to be made again, whereas *Tetra Delta, Combiclav, Synulox* and *Multiject* tubes are all currently unavailable (and likely to be for several more months) due to difficulties sourcing raw ingredients for manufacture. We currently have 3 different tubes available.

Ubropen

A penicillin based tube licensed to be administered once a day for 3-5 days with a 6 day milk withdrawal period. The product is particularly suited for Staphyloccal and Streptococcal infections but is not recommended for severe E Coli infections when the cow is sick.

Ubrolexin

Contains 2 different antibiotics, Cefalexin and Kanamycin and is licensed for the treatment of E Coli, as well as some Staphylococci and Streptococci. Treatment course is tubing the affected quarter twice with an interval of 24 hours between treatments and 5 day milk withdrawal after the second tube.

Mastiplan

Contains the antibiotic Cefapirin in with the anti-inflammatory prednisolone and is licensed for the use against Staphylococci, Streptococci and E Coli. Treatment course is 1 tube 12 hourly for 4 consecutive milkings with a milk withdrawal of 5.5 days after last treatment.

In addition to the tube options **Mamyzin** injection is also licensed for the treatment of *Streptococcus Uberis* mastitis without tubing.

With the limited options of tubes available now is an ideal time to review what types of mastitis you have on farm, control strategies and treatment protocols. To discuss options available please speak to one of the farm vets.

CHANGES TO DRY COW TUBES

As many of you are aware **Ubro Red** dry cow tubes have been discontinued and replaced by **Ubrostar Red**. However there are some differences!

The constituents of the products remain broadly similar, with equivalent durations of action and spectrum of activity. The penicillin component of **Ubrostar Red** remains in the dry udder for up to three weeks, and the framycetin component for 10 weeks, or until calving.

The milk withhold period for **Ubrostar Red** is 35 days plus 36 hours after calving. This compares to 28 days plus 84 hours post calving for Ubro Red. The meat withdrawal period for Ubrostar Red is 10 days compared to 28 days for Ubro Red.