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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2019

WORMING OPTIONS FOR DAIRY YOUNGSTOCK AFTER TURNOUT

First season grazers will soon 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 worm control strategies are used to reduce exposure to worms (e.g. use of clean grazing) and to control worm burdens while at the same time allowing cattle to develop an immunity by use of anthelmintic boluses, pour-ons or injections.

We have summarised some of the treatment options below with an approximation of cost but to discuss which products may be most appropriate for you or for a quote, please contact the surgery.

Single treatments at turnout:

Panacur bolus for cattle 100-300kg. Single application gives up to 20 weeks cover. Approximate cost per bolus £10.00.

Autoworm bolus (First Grazer or Finisher) for cattle 100-400kg, pulse release of wormer every 3 weeks (5 or 7 doses of wormer). Approximate cost £16.00 per bolus.

Cydetin 10% Injection single injection administered into base of ear to give 120 days protection. Approximate cost £3.50/200kg animal.

Multiple treatments:

Dectomax pour-on – 2 treatments at turnout and again 8-10 weeks later. Approximate cost for a single dose for a 200kg animal 80p.

Animec/Enovex pour-on – 3 treatments at 3, 8 and 13 weeks after turnout. Approximate cost for a single dose for a 200kg animal 20p.



LEPTAVOID H SUPPLY PROBLEMS

We have been informed by MSD (the manufacturers) of major supply problems with **Leptavoid H** this spring due to batch failures in the manufacturing process.



We currently have some vaccine available but are likely to run out over the next month. We are in the process of sourcing an alternative Leptospirosis vaccine **Spirovac** which we are allowed to import on a special import license from the USA but it may be early May before this vaccine arrives.

We would encourage anyone who is planning to vaccinate this spring to secure their vaccine in good time and in particular if taking the first dose for replacement heifers to make sure you order enough to give the second dose at the time of the original order.

BVD STAMP IT OUT

Many of you will have attended one of the **BVD Stamp It Out** meetings that we have organised and qualified for free surveillance testing to determine your herd's BVD status. In herds where evidence of active BVD infection is found a further sum of money (up to £440.00) is available to carry out a **PI** hunt (individually testing animals to identify those which are **p**ersistently infected with BVD virus). For those of you who have yet to arrange the initial screening tests it would be good to get these carried out asap so that if we need to do further testing this can be carried out before turnout.

For those of you who haven't yet registered to join the **BVD Stamp It Out** initiative we will be holding further meetings but please let us know that you are interested as our initial allocation is only for 100 farmers to receive funding and we already have over 60 who have registered!



WORMING EWES AROUND LAMBING

For most of the year the ewe's immune system is able to minimize the egg laying capacity of any gutworms they are carrying. However around lambing the ewe is under significant nutritional stress which can cause immunosuppression resulting in increased worm egg outputs which contaminate pastures and increase the challenge to growing lambs (peri-parturient egg rise).

Our advice is that around lambing is the **only time** that we need to consider routine worming of adult ewes but even then, due to concerns about anthelmintic resistance, we would not recommend blanket treatment of all ewes. Recent research has shown that nationally 84% of farms show some evidence of white drench resistance as well as 68% showing resistance to levamisole (yellow) drenches, 51% to ivermectins and 19% to moxidectin (**Cydectin**).

This research is quite startling. The pattern we have seen in the last few years in our in-house worm egg counts would indicate that our sheep farms will have similar resistance patterns. The best advice is to leave a proportion of ewes untreated. It has been suggested that leaving at least 10% of the flock untreated will help to delay selection for anthelmintic resistant worms. A sensible suggestion would be **to treat those ewes whose immunity is likely to be lowest** such as:

Gimmers and young ewes

Ewes nursing twins and triplets

Ewes in low body condition score

Barren ewes, ewes nursing singles and ewes in good bodily condition are the ones to consider **not** worming.

The advice to leave a proportion of the flock untreated does not apply to fluke control. It is recommended that all flocks carry out fluke egg counts in the spring and if fluke eggs are found all ewes should be treated with a flukicide effective against adult flukes.



PRODUCT NEWS!

Enzoitic Abortion vaccine for ewes (Cevac Chlamydophila)

We have access to some 50 dose bottles of short dated Enzoitic Abortion vaccine (expires May 2019) at significantly discounted prices. If you are considering vaccinating hogs returning from wintering away or ewes after lambing in readiness for next lambing time (!) and would like to know more details, please contact the surgery.

Rehydion Gel

Rehydion Gel contains electrolytes which help to prevent lambs from becoming acidotic. A 2ml dose given by mouth to lambs helps to address dehydration and acidosis without affecting the lamb's ability to utilise colostrum and milk. It is recommended for newborn lambs if they are slow to suckle and where colostrum quality or quantity is low (e.g. poor ewe nutrition). It can also be used alongside antibiotics in the treatment of rattles belly. One bottle contains 160 lamb doses. More information is available at the surgery.



PARASITE UPDATE

This recent weather has been beneficial to man and beast but unfortunately parasites too. We are seeing a very different pattern to usual in the parasite forecasts and in the testing we are doing in our lab. Here is a summary of the current situation.

Fluke

The mild winter has meant that fluke will still be continuing their lifecycle, they have not been sent into hibernation by a cold spell. This means our grazing livestock are still at risk of chronic fluke and our **lambling time fluke dose is not a clear out dose**. Our advice is to **dose again in 8-10 weeks after this lambling dose** and do a faecal egg count 6 weeks after dosing. The flukicide to choose is an adulticide that you have not used this season if possible. **It is not appropriate to use a triclabendazole product at this time.**

Coccidiosis

This protozoa parasite overwinters in the environment, starting its lifecycle in warmer weather. The weather conditions this year has allowed Cocci to thrive. We have seen scouring lambs and high counts **weeks earlier** than usual on several farms. The timing of treatment is **critical** to preventing disease; treat too early and you will not kill the parasite and the lambs will still get disease, late treatment will result in severe disease with irreparable gut damage and deaths in some cases. Our advice on farms where there is a known coccidiosis problem is to do faecal egg count from 4-5 weeks of age and treat when the cocci count rises.

Nematodirosis

Nematodirus Battus is the worm that passes directly from one season's lambs to the next by surviving on the pastures over winter. The worms hatch out after a cold spell when the temperature reaches 10 °C. The mass hatching of worms causes disease in 6-8 week old lambs. There are forecasting stations situated all over the country giving us local predictions of when the peak hatch of worms will happen. You can keep up to date with these forecasts on the NADIS and SCOPS websites.

Due to the record temperatures experienced in February, the SCOPS forecast is predicting a **moderate risk** for nematodirosis in March the Northwest. There have been cases confirmed in Ormskirk, Cheshire and lower lying areas of Northumberland already. Our local station at Stoneyhurst gives the following forecast, but as I am writing this its snowing – so this could change !



Peak hatch 06.04.19 station altitude 376m

Farms at higher altitudes will be later, lower altitudes will be earlier (100m lower - 7 days earlier). South facing fields will be earlier.

So practically this means **all our March and April born lambs should be dosed for nematodirus at 6 weeks old**. Our advice is to use a white drench to treat nematodirus as it is the only parasite that has little resistance to this drug, **but** read on as things could be complicated this year!

Parasitic Gastroenteritis

These worms are the ones passed out by ewes around lambing time and multiply up during the spring and summer grazing period. I think of these as 'summer worms' as we usually need to dose for these parasites in June - September. This year we are already seeing increasing counts in our lab in February born lambs. They are not at the level where we would dose but we do not usually start to see any until at least May. This means that we could possibly see nematodirus, coccidiosis and 'summer worms' in our lambs at the same time.

I can not emphasise enough how important a faecal egg count in lambs is this year. We recommend sampling from 4 weeks old.

A very high % of summer worms are resistant to white drench, knowing what parasites are present and using a tailored drug programme is crucial!

The weather conditions last summer meant that there was only a limited challenge from summer worms which may not have resulted in the development of a good immunity. We therefore need to consider hoggs as being totally susceptible to worms this spring and recommend performing worm egg counts just as we do with this year's lambs.



ORF AND ORF VACCINE



Orf is a highly contagious skin disease, primarily of sheep and goats, caused by a Parapox virus which can also **infect humans**. Orf virus can survive off the sheep in a dry environment (such as lambing sheds) for many years. This is why more serious outbreaks are usually associated with intensive sheep systems where there is a build up of infection in the lambing sheds. It is well worthwhile pressure-washing and disinfecting sheep buildings and hurdles/pens/troughs etc. prior to use, although it is still possible to have symptomless carriers of orf virus amongst the adult ewes which can re-infect the environment.



Orf virus gains entry into the body through breaks in the skin. In newborn lambs this often appears to be around the gums where the teeth are pushing through. The incubation period (time from picking the infection up to showing symptoms) is only a few days. In the milder form of the disease symptoms include blisters on the lips and corners of the mouth. In severe

cases vesicles form on the insides of the mouth and throat. Invariably affected animals lose weight and don't thrive and may stop sucking altogether. Infection can pass to the teats of ewes with mastitis often being the costly consequence. In older lambs outbreaks can be associated with grazing pastures containing thistles which cause small puncture wounds in the skin.

Orf lesions will usually heal within six to eight weeks. Because orf is a viral infection, antibiotics (sprays and/or 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.



PLEASE NOTE THAT ONCE COLLECTED FROM THE SURGERY, WE CANNOT TAKE BACK AND CREDIT REFRIGERATED ITEMS INCLUDING SCABIVAX.

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