

# TEL: 01729 823538

www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

**Dalehead**  
Veterinary Group Ltd

STATION ROAD, SETTLE BD24 9AA

MOUNT PLEASANT, HIGH BENTHAM LA2

GISBURN AUCTION MART, GISBURN BB7



24 hour  
dedicated  
farm cover

## FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER—APRIL 2023

### WORMING OPTIONS FOR DAIRY YOUNGSTOCK AT 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. Speak to one of our vets or SQP's for more information.

Drug	Pros	Cons	Approx Cost
<b>LONG ACTING INJECTION</b> <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 Persistent for 120 days for O. Ostertagi and lungworm This gives good growth rates and there is no worm damage to the animal <b>Use in animals that will go for fattening.</b>	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.	£4.40 dose 200kg exc. VAT approx
<b>LONG ACTING POUR-ON</b> <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)
<b>SHORT ACTING POUR-ON</b> 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)
<b>PULSE RELEASE BOLUS</b> <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 but allows cattle develop immunity .	Cost Not to use within 8 months of calving.	1st Grazer £18.00 (approx.)
<b>SUSTAINED RELEASE BOLUS</b> <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 £13 per bolus

## NEVER WASTE A DEAD SHEEP - Part 1: The Viral Iceberg Diseases

We are going to do a series of articles on why we believe post mortems are so beneficial. Here is part 1: The Viral Iceberg Diseases.

Iceberg Diseases are a hot topic at the moment with frequent NSA and livestock press articles, and several research projects being carried out. Awareness is certainly increasing. Mule gimmer lamb buyers complaining about MV and tup and draft ewe purchasers griping about OPA are common themes these days. There are a group of diseases considered to be 'iceberg diseases' as the symptoms we see are only the tip of the problem with many health problems and production losses hidden below the surface.

Some think of these diseases as 'head in the sand disease' as most of us treat them that way. We believe however that we will need to deal with these diseases both to maximise the profitability of our flocks on a commercial basis with decreasing subsidy payments and to protect the reputation of our breeders. We frequently find MV, Johnes and OPA as underlying causes of ill thrift and losses, much more often than mineral deficiencies. Think about which piece of auction chat you want to hear about your stock, and which will spread faster and travel wider - 'those bonnie gimmers romped on' or 'those draft ewes went to nowt and the veterinary found MV'. MV and OPA are both iceberg diseases caused by retroviruses. These viruses are highly infectious pathogens capable of causing devastating disease, they suppress the immune system and allow other diseases to progress alongside their own insidious disease pattern. HIV that causes AIDS in humans is a retrovirus that acts in a similar way. Here are more fascinating facts:

### MV - Maedi Visna

- The name comes from the Icelandic words for pneumonia and wasting, the two main symptoms of the disease.
- It is spread in the colostrum and through lung discharges.
- MV also has a long incubation period, we don't often see disease in sheep until they are over 3 years. The sheep is a carrier, spreading disease from the moment they are infected.
- The number of infected flocks has more than doubled in recent years, with numerous breakdowns in accredited flocks.
- Up to 85% of the flock are often infected. The production losses become obvious when infection levels reach 50%, there are low level losses up until then. Early detection will significantly minimise your losses.
- A 1500 Masham flock lost 40% of productivity on becoming infected. Losses were through poor milk production, small birthweight lambs and increased culling rates. Ouch! Expensive!
- Recent research indicates that there is a genetic susceptibility to MV. Does this sound familiar? Scrapie genetic susceptibility has had quite an impact in many breeding programmes.
- A blood sample can detect antibodies to MV, making it the easiest Iceberg disease to identify. The only complication is that it can take longer than many diseases before the antibodies are detectable. That is why we sample months apart in the accreditation scheme.
- Blood sampling and culling is the most effective control method.

### OPA – Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma- Jaagsiekte

- Spread through colostrum and oral/nasal discharges just like MV.
- This one causes tumours in the lungs of sheep.
- Jaagsiekte is an Afrikkans word for chasing disease. This disease causes respiratory signs through progressive pneumonia.
- When infected sheep are gathered they will have laboured breathing, hence the name.
- In later stages of the disease fluid builds up in the lungs, this will run from the nostrils if the sheep is held with its head down. This is called the 'wheelbarrow test'.



- It used to be thought that this was a slow progression of tumours from being infected as a lamb. Recent research shows that there is a rapid growth of tumour. It is not known whether the development of tumours is due to poor immunity or individual susceptibility.
- Disease is seen mainly in older sheep, we do however diagnose OPA in shearlings.
- Heavily infected flocks will see deaths at a rate of 20%. Cull rates of 5% are common.
- There are no blood or faecal samples that detect disease. The only screening test is ultrasound scanning of the lungs which allows small tumours to be identified.
- OPA is detected mostly at post mortem, there are distinctive hard grey masses in the lungs.
- There is no cure or vaccine. Culling cases of respiratory disease or thin animals and early detection through scanning are the only tools available to us in managing the disease.

Yes, it is all incredibly complicated but it is worthwhile tackling the problem. Iceberg diseases can have a Titanic effect on your breeding sheep trade, at the very least they will cause a leak in your hull in terms of productivity and losses! Do you still want to stick your head in the sand or you are thinking what can I do? This is what we recommend...

- Sample bought in tups for MV (and breeding sheep if not a closed flock).
- *Johnes, CLA and Border Disease could also be screened for at this time. More about this in Part 2 next month.*
- Routinely sample 6 - 10 thin ewes; blood sample for MV *Include faecal samples for Johnes, worms and fluke.*
- Post-mortem all deaths in ewes and tups. Do not waste a dead sheep!
- Sacrifice those thin ewes and tups which will struggle to fatten for post mortem.

## ANIMAL HEALTH & WELFARE PATHWAY

The animal health and welfare pathway has recently been launched. It is a government funded scheme designed by farmers and vets in conjunction with DEFRA which includes a funded visit from us to focus on drawing up a health plan specific to your animals' health and welfare priorities and tailored to your needs. The funding will include covering the cost of some laboratory testing to establish the BVD status in cattle herds and anthelmintic resistance testing on sheep farms.

To be eligible for a funded annual health and welfare review you must have either 11 or more beef cattle, 11 or more dairy cattle or 21 or more sheep. The funding available is:

- £436.00 for sheep
- £522 for beef cattle
- £372.00 for dairy cattle

The difference in the species rates is down to the cost of the diagnostic test undertaken rather than showing a favouritism towards beef cows!

Initially you will only be able to apply for a review for one species (i.e. either dairy cattle, beef cattle or sheep) and you must be a BPS (Basic Payment Scheme) eligible farmer to be able to register. The first step is to register your interest on the gov.uk website which, as long as you are eligible, you will then receive an email inviting you to apply.

The scheme has been drawn up to be flexible to your needs with a minimum amount of unnecessary paperwork and bureaucracy involved and should be well worth while signing up to.

For more information google 'Animal Health and Welfare Pathway' or speak to one of the farm vets.

The screenshot shows the GOV.UK website for the 'Animal Health and Welfare Pathway'. The page layout includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Environment > Food and farming > Farming and food grants and payments. The main heading is 'Policy paper Animal Health and Welfare Pathway'. Below this, a brief description states: 'The Pathway will push forward and support the gradual and continual improvement in farm animal health and welfare.' The page also includes a 'Get emails about this page' button, a section for 'Applies to England', and a 'Documents' section with a link to the 'Animal Health and Welfare Pathway' HTML document. On the right, there is a 'Related content' section with links to 'SFI annual health and welfare review', 'Action Plan for Animal Welfare', and 'Sustainable Farming Incentive: how the scheme will work in 2022'. The bottom of the page shows the Windows taskbar and system tray.



# PRODUCT NEWS

## SHEEP ABORTION VACCINES



The early user offer on 50 dose bottles of Cevac Chlamydia Enzootic abortion vaccine has now been expanded to include the 20 dose bottles. This offer is available up to the end of April 2023.

MSD have now introduced an extra 5% early season discount on Toxovax ordered delivered before the end of July. Both manufacturers are already anticipating potential shortages in the autumn so are encouraging farmers to take vaccine early!

## SCABIVAX/SCABIGARD ORF VACCINE

For those of you who are still waiting for orf vaccine the latest information that we have is that the next batch is likely to be available in early May.

If you haven't already ordered please contact the surgery so we can make sure that you get some!



## HEPTAVAC P/BRAVOXIN/COVEXIN 10



The latest information that we have is that 100ml, 250ml and 500ml Heptavac P bottles should become available in May and 50ml bottles sometime in August.

Bravoxin 10 in 50ml and 100ml sizes should be available in July/August.

We currently have a small number of Covexin 10 in stock and are not sure when the next batch will be released.

We currently have supplies of Ovivac P (100mls and 500mls). Whichever vaccines you use I would recommend planning ahead and ordering in very good time to make sure that you can get the product you want when you need it!!

## LAMBING TIME ESSENTIALS

For those of you who don't know, we also stock a range of lambing time essentials including...

- Lamb colostrum
- Lamb milk
- Iodine
- Marksman sprays
- Marking crayons
- Castration Rings & Applicators
- Vet lube
- Lamb feeder bottles and teats
- Feeding tubes
- Ewe prolapse harness
- Lambing snare & ropes
- Injector & dosing guns
- And much more!!

Please contact the surgery to place your order, to enquire or for a quote. Orders can be collected from the Settle office or the out of hours box, Bentham box or from Gisburn Auction Mart every Thursday.



MARCH  
2023



[www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk](http://www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk)

