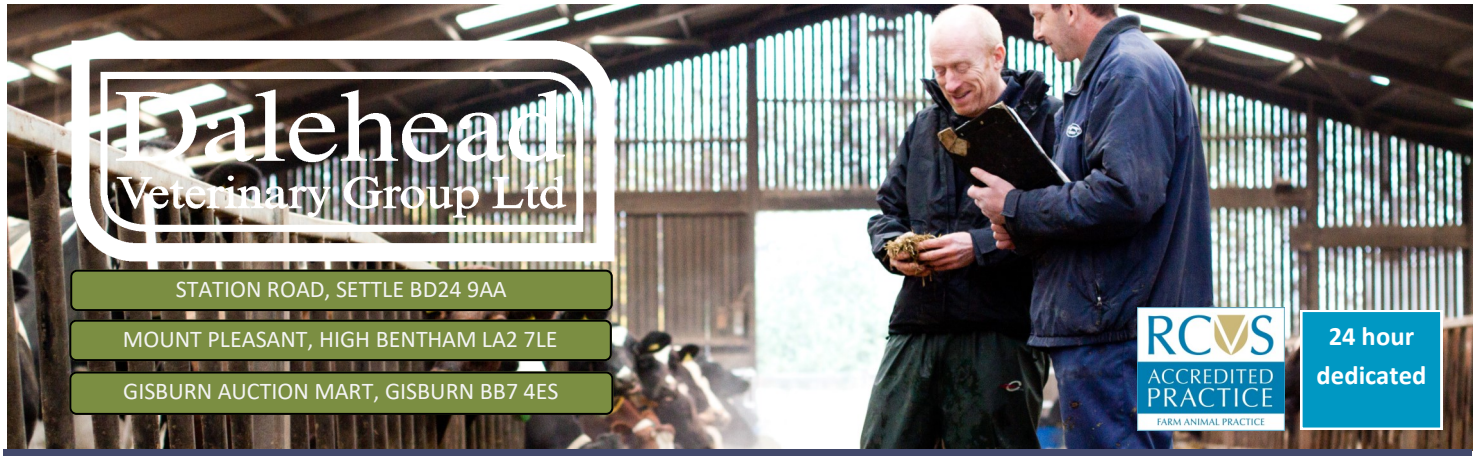

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2017

Housing Doses For Cattle

Growing cattle after their first or second season at pasture should be treated on housing with a wormer that is effective against inhibited worm larvae. Ivermectin based pour on preparations (e.g. **Animec** or **Enovex** pour ons) have the added advantage that they are also effective against both sucking and chewing lice as well as mange mites.

There are also benefits from treating cattle for fluke during the housing period although the timing of the fluke dose will vary depending on which product is used as different products will kill off varying numbers of immature flukes. As a rough guide, Triclabendazole drenches (e.g. **Tribex, Endofluke or Fasinex**) will kill off flukes from 3 week old immatures so that waiting for 3 weeks after housing would be ideal, closentel based products (e.g. **Closamectin pour on** or **Closamectin injection**) and nitroxynil based products (e.g. **Trodax**) are best given at least 6-7 weeks after housing, and oxyclozanide (e.g. **Zanil**) or albendazole (e.g. **Albex or Tramazole**) based drenches are best given 10—12 weeks after housing when the majority of flukes will be susceptible to treatment.

Different strategies may be necessary for dairy cows because although there are pour on wormers (**Eprinex** or **Eprizero**) with nil milk withholds there are no fluke control products without milk withhold periods. If dairy cows are carrying a fluke infestation (as confirmed by the presence of fluke eggs in faecal samples) treatments are usually given during the dry period with a product effective against adult flukes such as **Albex, Tramazole** or **Zanil**.

For more information about housing doses, to have a pooled dung sample tested for the presence of fluke eggs or for a quote please contact the surgery.

CALF PNEUMONIA VACCINATION OPTIONS

Respiratory disease in calves can be an expensive problem. Disease in suckled or reared beef calves can increase finishing time and costs, and reduce carcase quality. Disease in dairy heifer calves, particularly in the first three months of life, can result in failure to attain recommended growth and age targets, increasing age at first bulling and calving, reducing lactation yields, and ultimately longevity within the milking herd.

Good calf management and housing is important to control calf pneumonia however it is difficult to remove all the risk factors associated with bovine respiratory disease. Vaccination works by increasing the immunity of the individual animal and decreases the infection pressure within the group. For this reason vaccination is a **HERD** strategy, and **ALL** calves in the group should be vaccinated, not just, for example, the valuable dairy heifer calves! If not, then vaccinated and unvaccinated calves should be managed separately.

When choosing a vaccine the following should be taken into account:

- What does the vaccine protect against? – Do I know what bugs are on my farm or do I need broad cover?

- How long does protection last? – Will it cover the entire risk period for these calves?
- From what age can the vaccine be used and how quickly will it provide protection? - This is not the same as the age at which the vaccine can be administered! Vaccines need time to work and this can vary from a few days to a few weeks.
- How is the vaccine administered? Intranasal, intramuscular or under the skin. Ready mixed or freeze dried pellet and solvent. Intranasal vaccines typically provide faster protection than injected vaccines.

To get the most from any vaccination programme try to minimise stress at the time of vaccination (e.g. avoid weaning and vaccinating at the same time), do not vaccinate sick animals, and take care when handling and storing the vaccines - transport them from the vets in a cool bag, and store in the fridge until used.

Now is the time to start thinking about vaccinating your calves for pneumonia. Which causes can you vaccinate against?

- PI3 - Common flu-like virus. Usually a fairly mild pneumonia by itself but often occurs alongside RSV and may make infection with other causes both more likely and more severe.
- RSV - Very severe pneumonia with rapid onset. Can prove fatal within 24 hours, especially for the first few cases of an outbreak. Makes secondary bacterial pneumonia much more likely.
- IBR - Mostly a disease of older cattle but may contribute to calf pneumonia on IBR positive farms. All cattle and calves can be given a live vaccine in the face of an outbreak.
- BVD - Not a direct cause of pneumonia, but reduces immune function of infected calves - making infection with another cause of pneumonia much more likely.
- Pasteurellosis - Common bacterial cause, affecting young cattle - usually 1 month to 2 years old. Often occurs 2-3 weeks after stress of transport/ handling. Made more likely to occur by infection with the viruses above, poor ventilation/housing hygiene etc.

Details of various vaccination options:

Vaccine	Protects against	Min age	No. injections	Route	Boosters
Bovilis Bovipast RSP	PI3, RSV,Pasturellosis	2 weeks	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	Under skin	2 weeks pre risk period
Bovillis IBR marker live	IBR	2 weeks	1 vacc	intranasal	Every 6 months
Rispoval 3	PI3, RSV, BVD	12 weeks	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	muscle	6 months or 3 weeks before risk period
Rispoval 4	PI3, RSV, IBR, BVD	3 months old	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	muscle	Every 6 months
Rispoval RS and PI3	PI3, RSV	9 days	I vacc	intranasal	Protection lasts 12 weeks
Bovilis BVD	BVD	8 months	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	muscle	4 weeks pre-breeding or every 6 months
Hipprabovis Somni	Mannheimia haemolytica and Histophilus somni	2 months	2 vaccs 3 weeks apart	s/c	

If you are thinking of vaccinating your calves against respiratory disease and would like more information then please don't hesitate to get in touch with one of the farm vets.

Register of Mobility Scorers (RoMS): A New Accreditation Scheme

With mobility scoring to assess lameness prevalence within a herd now a requirement for Red Tractor members and many supermarket milk contracts, there has been growing pressure to ensure mobility scorers are appropriately trained.

The RoMS is an independent, self-regulatory body which encourages the widespread use of standardised, independent mobility scoring conducted by trained and accredited scorers on UK dairy farms.

The aims of the RoMS are:

To improve the mobility of the UK national dairy herd by :

- Improving the quality and accuracy of mobility score data provided to producers and their agents
- Providing standardised high quality data on the mobility of cows on UK dairy farms over time
- To be as inclusive of, and reactive to, the mobility scoring requirements of all key stake holders in the dairy supply chain. To this end, the founding committee has representatives from the dairy farming, veterinary and foot trimming sectors

Grandfather rights have been granted to individuals by the Register's founding board, on a case-by-case basis. Mobility scorers were to demonstrate that they had previous training and experience using AHDB's mobility scoring to a high standard. Anna, our farm tech/RVN has been granted grandfather rights to become a member of the RoMS.

The AHDB method for mobility scoring is the industry standard in the UK and is the only method that can be used by members of the RoMS.

It was developed with the University of Bristol in conjunction with farmers, veterinary surgeons and other animal health and welfare organisations. It simply assesses the cow's ability to move easily.

Mobility assessments are best carried out on a regular basis and to be done accurately and consistently, an area that is well-lit, flat with a hard, non-slip floor is required. Cows can be observed as they walk past, preferably as part of their ordinary, routine movements so that they behave and move naturally. Cows walking out of a parlour works well on many farms and it can be helpful if the scorer can be out of the cows eye line (tucked behind a wall, or round the corner) so the ladies don't wonder who the new person is.

The Mobility Score is a four point score ranging from 0 to 3.

- Score 0 has good mobility
- Score 1 has affected mobility but which limb is difficult to determine
- Score 2 has a lame leg
- Score 3 is very lame and cannot keep up with the rest of the herd

The benefits of Mobility Scoring:

- The early detection of any mobility problems resulting in prompt identification and treatment
- The ability to prioritise cases for treatment
- Any poor mobility trends can be monitored and the causes identified
- The provision of figures for benchmarking performance
- An increase in the awareness of herd foot health and farm staff motivation to improve herd mobility
- Its suitability for all herd types and situations

Farm vets are also able to use the scoring records to monitor improvements in lameness incidence and to help formulate strategies to tackle longer-term mobility challenges in individual herds. At the moment we are offering one **FREE** mobility score with the Red Tractor Herd Health Plan Review. Other herd tests are available for £50.00 (+ VAT) each.

Lameness in Cattle

We recently tried putting some new research into practice using our Farm Tech, RVN Anna and our mobility scoring service. The main problem with changing something is working out if the changes have brought any real benefit. Routine scoring allows changes to be quantified.

We have been mobility scoring three times a year on one particular farm for two years and have always had a mobility score of 83-87% score zero (perfect mobility). This level is about as good as we see achieved on farms where lameness control is on a reactive level (for example, on this farm; daily foot-bathing, routine trimming at drying off and rapid treatment of cows showing signs of lameness).

We discussed using a proactive strategy of a preventative trim at 60-80 days post calving. The idea is that at this time a remodelling/ reshaping of the foot to take pressure off the sole at the typical solar ulcer site will alleviate bruising and discomfort in this region preventing the development of solar bruising and the separation of solar horn leading to a solar ulcer.

Over the next two mobility scores the score zero rate increased to 91-93% (perfect mobility) with **severe lameness being eradicated completely** mainly due to there being no early lactation cows going on to develop a sole ulcer.

A two hundred cow dairy would have approximately 28 dry cows, 170 in milk with 11 between 60 and 80 days at any given time. This would mean reshaping/**trimming 3 a week** as they get to 60 days calved. It is purely a reshaping to lift the sole off the floor at the solar ulcer site and so is a two minute job (once the foot is up!).

Preventing cows from becoming 'a little touchy' on a foot in this way is very useful as there is definitely an **escalator of lameness** with the not so bad becoming the hopping lame over time and very few making it the other way. **Only 16% of severely lame cows** (score 3) ever make it back to normal even after extensive treatment. Food for thought the next time you are blocking and bandaging a foot.

BEEF BREEDING OPEN DAY

We would like to thank everyone who attended the open day at Gallaber Farm last month. There was a good show of cattle for stock judging with the cow and calf class causing much discussion! The topics of the day were all centred around fertility and calving ease with Ian Illingworth presenting his latest trial on synchronisation of a commercial breeding herd.

There were demonstrations on heifer pre- breeding checks and bull fertility and a presentation by Alison Glasgow on EBV's (Estimated Breeding Value), GEBV's (Genetic Estimated Breeding Value) and Myostatin. A lot of information was on offer, far too much to discuss in one newsletter! We will summarise the topics over the next few months.

As the autumn breeding sales are here we thought the most relevant topic to start with this month was how to use the available science to make choices in selecting breeding stock. We will be adding details to our website at www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk/farm/fm-fact-sheets-and-presentations.aspx