



## FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2019

### CHANGES TO RED TRACTOR FARM ASSURANCE STANDARDS

From the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 the Red Tractor Farm Assurance Dairy standards are being updated with numerous new requirements. Details of all the changes can be found on our website but among the more noteworthy new standards are...

- From 1<sup>st</sup> October every dairy farm must have a Johnes Disease control plan drawn up by a BCVA accredited vet (all our farm vets are BCVA Johnes accredited advisers) by the time their farm assurance comes up for renewal. Test results showing the current prevalence of Johnes on the farm are required.
- Every farm must have a BVD eradication/control plan in place. We shall be running more 'BVD Stamp It Out' meetings this autumn with free testing to determine BVD status for farms that sign up to the campaign.
- A requirement for a written policy detailing when pain relief (e.g. Loxicom/Metacam) should be provided e.g. after disbudding calves, difficult calving, lameness and mastitis treatment etc.
- At least 1 person who is responsible for administering medicines needs to have undertaken training and hold a certificate of competence/attendance from a training course attended since October 2016. This was previously a recommendation but is now a compulsory requirement. The 'Responsible Use Of Medicines' courses and 'Milksure' courses that we run will satisfy this requirement.



**We will be running a 'Responsible Use Of Medicines' course on Tuesday 22nd October at the Knight's Table, Stainforth at 7pm. The cost will be £25.00 plus VAT (direct debit/cash sales price) per person including a certificate of competence along with supper and refreshments. Please contact the surgery to book a place.**

### WHEN TO DOSE FOR FLUKE

We have been blood sampling on local farms to see when new season liver fluke is emerging, rearing its ugly head! Our aim is to find out when we need to start dosing and which dose to choose for maximum benefit of the drug.

**Where we've been sampling:** Slaidburn, on In-bye and Fell land. Rathmell bottoms, Low Bentham, Settle tops.

**What we've sampled:** New season lambs that are grazing the wetter parts of the monitor farms. The test checks for liver fluke antibodies. The lambs become positive once they have picked up liver fluke as their immune system responds to the intruder. Once a lamb's immune system has produced liver fluke antibodies they will remain at a traceable level throughout their lives, so this is why unfortunately we can't use this test to check ewes for liver fluke infection.

We start to see a rise in antibody levels 2-3weeks after liver fluke ingestion.

#### Results so far:

None of the samples have returned positive so far, which is good news! So as yet on the farms we've tested new season flukes have not been ingested.

However, we are keeping a close eye on them and will keep you posted. There are a few things to think about in terms of when to drench:

Did you clear out old season liver fluke in late Spring? Check a faecal sample from your ewes and tups. If they didn't clear out, we will find liver fluke eggs in the samples.

Dosing needs to be timed around tupping time, so speak to one of the farm team at the surgery for individual farm, fluke advice.



# Pre Breeding Tup Examinations



The tup sales of 2019 have crept up on us. How many tups do you need this year? We recommend careful inspection of all tups at this time of year to ensure they are fit for purpose. An alliteration for the pre tugging inspection is the 4 'T's' - teeth, tone, toes and testicles. A summary of our preliminary fertility check follows:

We can carry out flock visits to check all your tups or we hold clinics at the surgery where a vet is available for part of the day so you can bring tups down and we will do a fertility check for you. During these checks we can examine several tups in a short period of time so it is a very cost effective way of maximising your tugging power. We will perform semen analysis on any tups we have any doubt about after this preliminary examination. Alternatively, you can go through your tups and present us with any which you have concerns about.



## THE 4 T'S OF TUPPING TIME

**TEETH:** An examination of the teeth and mouth cavity to check for broken mouths and overgrown molars is valuable to ensure that your tup is going to be able to eat efficiently enough to get to achieve the second T – tone.

**STONE:** The T word used to describe the body condition of the tup. To maximise his fertility a tup should be BCS 3.5-4 at tugging. He will lose 2 condition scores during tugging time so he should be fit going into tugging. Ideally you feed him over 6 weeks pre-tugging to reach his ideal BCS and supplement him daily during tugging time. Tups that are good show condition at sale and are used soon after purchase have a notorious reputation for poor fertility as they lose large amounts of body condition, i.e. fit not fat.

Conditions that can affect the ability to gain weight satisfactorily pre tugging include:

- PGE (worms): Tups are more susceptible than ewes. Consider a WEC or dosing thin tups.
- Fluke: A fluke dose for all tups 6 weeks pre tugging is recommended.
- Wasting diseases such as Johnes, Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA), Jaagsiekte (OPA) or



Maedi Visna (MV): A vet examination for any tups that haven't thrived during the summer should be sought if there isn't an obvious cause

**TOES:** The examination should include the feet, legs, back and whole gait of the tup. A lame tup is not going to be able to serve ewes to his full potential.

**TESTICLES:** The testicles, scrotum, sheath and penis should all be inspected for abnormalities.

The size and consistency of the testicles tell us a lot about the fertility of the tup. There is a minimum scrotal size we accept tups should reach when they are in the breeding season. The testes should be the same size and have no lumps or bumps within the tissue and be freely mobile within the scrotum. The penis and sheath should show no signs of scarring or infection.

Scrotal Circumference	Lamb	Shearling	>2 Shear
Lowland Breed	30cm	32cm	36cm
Hill Breed	28cm	30cm	34cm



### Macmillan Coffee Morning - Friday September 27th 2019

One to put in your diary! We are once again supporting The Macmillan Coffee Morning. We have some very talented bakers on our team and their delicious creations will be available

11am - 2pm

# PROMOTING THE USE OF FAECAL EGG COUNTS



In the past month many of us will have completed the task of weaning lambs and started them on their journey to growth! We spend large amounts of money, time and effort to ensure that our livestock reach their best. Monitoring of this year's lambs for worms ensures that everything we put in is doing what it should and not being wasted incurring additional expense.

We are already seeing a large number of dung samples being brought to the surgery for worm egg counts (WEC's) but there are many more of you who could be taking advantage of this service that we provide.

Performing a faecal egg count allows us to see what is happening on your farm. When we look down the microscope we analyse and identify what parasites are present and in what numbers. This information allows either a vet or SQP to prescribe the most appropriate treatments if needed. Carrying out regular worm egg counts allows intervention to take place before the parasite burdens cause significant health and performance issues. By the time lambs start to show obvious signs of worm burdens it is likely that significant gut damage has occurred and daily liveweight gains have dropped resulting in reduced profitability. Checking whether animals need worming and avoiding un-necessary treatments will help avoid development of anthelmintic resistance. Clients who routinely perform worm egg counts have commented on their reduced wormer costs, reduced labour and significantly improved lamb performance.

## HOW TO SAMPLE FOR A FEC

- Collect ten samples per group.
- Sample either lambs or ewes. Don't mix age groups.
- Gather the group to be sampled into a yard or a corner of the field.
- Pick up samples after they move off.
- Alternatively walk around the group and collect fresh samples as they get up and move away.
- Sample randomly. DO NOT seek out scouring or dry lambs, as this will give a false result.
- We need 5 grams of faeces for a worm egg count.(40 grams for a fluke egg count).
- Samples must be tested fresh from the field on the same day they are collected.
- Keep the samples cool but not frozen.
- Bring the samples to us labelled "lambs", "ewes" and the group they are in.
- Bring the 10 samples to us in individual bags. They will be pooled in the lab to give a single result.
- Complete a form at reception detailing last drench date and products.

## Post Dosing Faecal Egg Counts (Drench Test)

A drench test provides a quick indication of the efficacy of an anthelmintic as well as drug resistance. Testing muck samples from 10 animals from the group following treatments allows us to identify that 1) the product used has worked, 2) detect any resistance on the farm. The timing of the post-drench sampling depends on the class of anthelmintic used, 7 days after Levamisole (yellow) wormers, 10-14 days after white (benzimidazole) drenches and 14-16 days after clear (Ivermectin) drenches.

For more information or to discuss a parasite control programme for your flock, please contact the surgery.

## Anthelmintic Resistance on Sheep Farms & Devising Worming Programmes to Slow Down Further Development of Resistance



We shall be holding a meeting to discuss the above topic on the evening of...

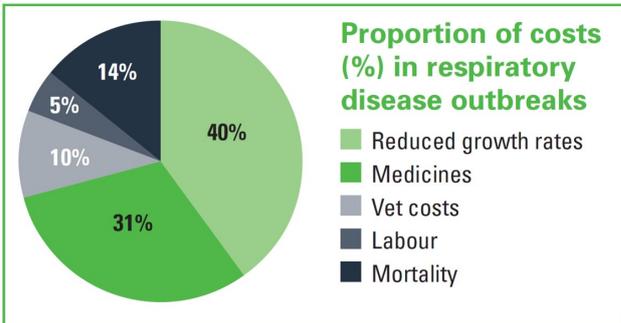
**Tuesday 10th September**  
**At the Knights Table, Stainforth at 7pm**

If you are interested in attending please contact the surgery for further details.



# CALF PNEUMONIA VACCINATION OPTIONS

Respiratory disease in calves can be an expensive problem. As well as the immediate costs of antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatments or dead calves there are other less obvious costs. Disease in suckled or reared beef calves can increase finishing times and reduce carcase quality. Disease in dairy heifer calves, particularly in the first 3 months of life, can result in failure to attain recommended growth and age targets, increasing age at first service and calving, reducing subsequent lactation yields and ultimately, longevity.

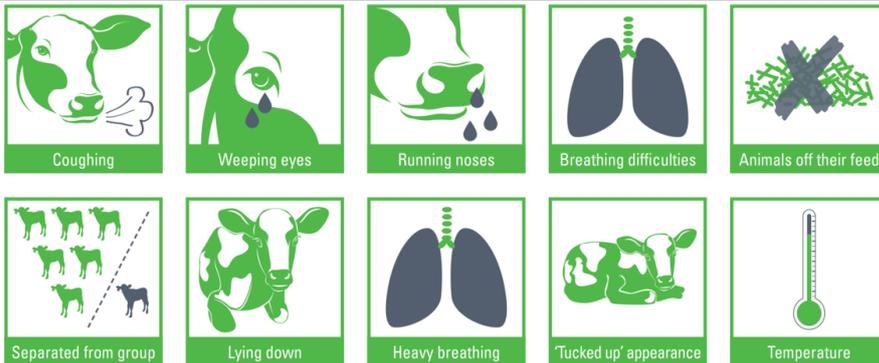


Good calf management and housing is important to control calf pneumonia however it is difficult to remove all the risk factors associated with respiratory disease. Vaccination is an important part of any control plan for calf pneumonia. Vaccination works by increasing the immunity of an individual animal and decreasing the infection pressure within the group. For this reason vaccination is a herd strategy and all calves in the group should be vaccinated and not, for example, just the valuable dairy heifer calves!

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?
- From what age can the vaccine be used and how quickly will it provide protection?
- How is the vaccine administered? Intranasal, Intramuscular or under the skin? Intranasal vaccines are typically single shot vaccines and provide a quicker protection than injectable vaccines.
- How long does the protection last? Will it cover the entire risk period for the calves?

## SIGNS OF PNEUMONIA



To get the maximum benefit from any vaccination programme try to minimise stress at the time of vaccination (e.g. avoid disbudding, castrating or weaning at the same time as vaccine administration), do not vaccinate sick animals. Take care when handling and storing vaccines – transport them from the practice in a cool bag and store in a fridge until ready for use.

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

VACCINE	PROTECTS AGAINST	MIN AGE	NO. INJECTIONS	ROUTE	BOOSTERS
Bovalto Intranasal	PI3, RSV	10 Days	1 vacc	Intranasal	Protection lasts 12 weeks
Rispoval Intranasal	PI3, RSV	9 days	1 vacc	Intranasal	Protection lasts 12 weeks
Rispoval 4	PI3, RSV, IBR, BVD	3 months old	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	Intramuscular	Every 6 months
Bovipast RSP	PI3, RSV, Pasturellosis	2 weeks	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	Under skin	2 weeks pre risk period
Bovalto Respi 3	PI3, RSV, BVD	2 weeks	2 vaccs 3 weeks apart	Under Skin	6 months duration or immunity
Bovalto Risp 4	PI3, RSV, BVD and Mannheimia Haemolytica	2 weeks	2 vaccs 3 weeks apart	Under Skin	6 months duration of immunity
Bovillis IBR Marker Live	IBR	2 weeks	1 vacc	Intranasal	Every 6 months
Bovillis IBR Marker Live	IBR	3 months old	1 vacc	Intramuscular	Every 6 months

If you would like to discuss pneumonia control in further detail, please contact the surgery to speak to one of our farm vets.

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

