

### Upcoming courses & events

#### Calf rearing course

**\*\*NB: Change of date\*\*** Module 2: Environment and pathogens (part 1) – **Friday 8th January 11am** @ The Wright & Morten Farm & Equine Office, Holly Tree Farm, SK11 9DT, with a visit to Ullard Hall Farm, Toft.

Learn to assess your calf housing and control common calf pathogens. We'll also be introducing the 'Calf Tracker' data analysis programme. Relevant to beef and dairy calves and open to everyone - don't worry if you missed the first session! Lunch will be provided. Please phone the office if you wish to attend and have not already confirmed with Steph/ Jenny.

#### "Make Your Farm Your Fortress"

Evening meeting, 7.30pm, Monday 25th January @ Chelford Village Hall

Is there more you could do to protect your profits and your health (of both animals and humans alike) from infectious disease risks? Come to our meeting, where there will be plenty of opportunity to discuss your specific concerns with the vets in small groups. For beef and dairy producers, Boehringer Ingelheim will also be at the meeting to talk about **Bovela**, their new BVD vaccine. Food will be provided – fitting for Burns Night!

#### Lambing courses

Wednesday 3rd February & Wednesday 2nd March, 10:30am @ Holly Tree Farm

Learn how to safely correct malpresentations (leg back, head back, etc), treat common periparturient diseases in ewes and ensure your lambs get the best start in life. Lunch will be provided. Please phone Hollie for details on 07733 121545/ book in with the office.

#### AI course

Bridget is hoping to run a DIY AI course, during either the week starting the 11th or 18th of April. We are looking for people who are interested in being trained, but we also need several volunteer venues to host the course, who can supply barren cows. Clients providing cows will be able to join the course at a subsidised rate. Please contact Bridget on 07733 121533 for more information.

#### Calendar competition: And the winner is...

Thanks again to everyone who entered, we had so many lovely photos to choose from this year! This year the winner of the £50 is Caroline Hulme of Reddish Vale High School, chosen by Jenny. Congratulations!

If you have not yet received your calendar, it should arrive by post in the next few days.

#### Stock and withdrawal updates

Please be aware that the milk withdrawal for **Noroclav lactating cow tubes** and **Combiclav lactating cow tubes** has increased from 60 hours to 84 hours with immediate effect.

**Mamyzin injection** is now back in stock.





# Winter Dysentery of Cattle



Winter dysentery is an illness causing diarrhoea that affects housed cattle. It is **highly contagious and can infect close to 100% of cattle in the herd**, usually with around 20-50% affected in the first few days. Death is very rare and most cattle recover after a few days. The exact cause hasn't yet been confirmed, but a bovine corona virus is strongly suspected. It is spread by visitors, carrier animals and objects contaminated with infected faeces, and passes easily between animals in close confinement.

Signs of winter dysentery are:

- **Severe, watery, foul-smelling dark brown diarrhoea**, which may contain some blood
- Usually seen in one or two cattle at first, but **spreads rapidly**, with most cattle affected within two weeks
- Appetite may be normal or reduced
- **Milk yield may be reduced by 25-95%**
- Affected animals may have a mild cough
- Some severely affected animals may show signs of colic
- Diarrhoea usually lasts for two to three days, followed by spontaneous recovery; disease in the herd typically takes 1-2 weeks to subside, but milk production may take weeks to months to return to normal

## Treatment

There is no available treatment for the cause of the disease, and most cows recover within three days. **Supportive therapy may be required, such as oral fluids** for cows that become dehydrated.

Fresh water and palatable feed should always be available. Salt licks are also beneficial, but access to water must not be restricted if they are used.

Severely affected cows may need more aggressive treatment such as IV fluids.

## Other causes of diarrhoea in a group

A diagnosis of winter dysentery is often made based on the clinical signs and by ruling out other causes of outbreaks of diarrhoea, such as:

- Food poisoning/toxins
- Acidosis
- BVD
- Salmonella
- Coccidiosis

**All these diseases require very different treatments, and some of them urgently. Always call your vet if you are concerned.**

## Prevention

Visitors such as vets, consultants, hoof trimmers and representatives can bring the disease onto the farm. **So ensure that all visitors are clean before and after entering any livestock areas**, eg. by providing boot dips.

Bought-in cattle can also bring the disease in. Isolate new animals for 2 weeks, and also isolate any adult cows with diarrhoea to reduce the risk of it spreading through the herd. There is no vaccine for winter dysentery.

If an outbreak occurs, no cattle or unnecessary personnel should enter the farm, and strict disinfection should occur before anybody leaves the farm.

After an outbreak, immunity in the herd tends to last for about 5 years.