



Wright & Morten Farm Newsletter

www.wmvets.co.uk

April 2017

New Range of Boluses- for dairy and beef cattle

Wright and Morten – as a member of XLVets- have exclusive access to a new range of boluses for cattle for supplementation of macro and trace elements. The four products in the range all offer significant cost benefits against other boluses available in the UK, when taking into account daily availability of active ingredients to the cattle, duration of action and convenience.

Prevention of Milk fever: Electropidolate boluses- 2 given together at first sign of calving. Provide controlled release of calcium, magnesium and pidolate (helps sustained release) for 40 hours after calving.

Oligovet Dry Cow bolus: trace element supplementation for 90 days (suitable for dry cows and in calf heifers over 400kg; also beef cows at weaning). Provides copper, zinc, manganese, iodine, selenium and cobalt.

Oligovet Super Grazing bolus: 8 months trace element supplementation for grazing cows-recommended for beef cows that have calved over winter, in calf dairy and beef heifers over 400 kg

Oligovet Super Grazing Heifer: trace element supplementation for grazing heifers – for heifers 200-400 kg

Please speak to Bridget, Jenny Marmion or Matt for further details.

Disease Update

- **We currently have 28 farms under TB restrictions** with five new breakdowns disclosed this month in Knutsford, Congleton, Macclesfield and Chester areas. Remember that you can visit www.ibtb.co.uk for information on breakdowns close to your herd. It is also worth keeping an eye on the TB Hub website (www.tbhub.co.uk) for practical advice on prevention and management of TB within your herd.
- **We have had no further reports of lambs being born with signs of Schmalleberg.** Several cases were confirmed in early lambing flocks in our area and a total of 84 premises across England had confirmed cases in lambs during the winter of 2016/17. Three premises in England have also had confirmed cases in calves APHA are currently collecting information regarding the spread of Schmalleberg so if you think that you may have seen a case please get in touch.
- **England remains within an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone** with all poultry owners required by law to take a range of biosecurity precautions to prevent the spread of bird flu. How stringent these are will depend on whether you fall within the Higher Risk Areas (HRAs)- keepers of poultry in these areas are still required to keep birds housed, or allow birds outdoors but only into a fenced run which is fully covered by netting. Some areas of Cheshire do still fall within the HRA- you can find out whether you are affected by visiting:

<http://www.gisdiseasemap.defra.gov.uk/intmaps/avian/map.jsp> and using the interactive map.

News Update

- **Congratulations** to our lovely TB tester Nieves and her husband David who are expecting their second child in September. We're sure you'll all take extra care of her over the coming months whilst she's out and about!
- **This Wednesday saw Matt & Jennie running our third lambing course of this Spring.** The course was well attended with everyone picking up some handy tips. Good luck to everyone lambing this Spring.



- **Date for your diary - beef farmers,** we'll be hosting an evening meeting on BVD and Fertility in the suckler herd on May 8th. All welcome, more information to follow.

Medicines Update

- **Huskvac** is currently available and must be ordered in specifically for each farm. Please ring the office and speak to Rachael to discuss your requirements.
- **Heptavac-P** is now back in stock in all sizes including 25 dose and 50 dose bottles.
- Unfortunately **Ceporex** is currently out of stock due to a manufacturing issue. It is unlikely to be back in stock until summer, so please speak to any of the farm vets regarding alternative products.

The Newborn Calf

Colostrum is essential to the newborn calf as it contains antibodies to provide immunity and combat common diseases. It is also rich in essential nutrients that provide energy for growth. The highest levels of these antibodies are found in the first milk after calving.

The ability of the calf's gut to absorb this antibody decreases gradually after birth and it is very important that calves receive colostrum within the first 6 hours of life. The level of antibody absorption by the gut is minimal once the calf is 18 hours old. However, protection is provided locally by antibodies on the lining of the gut wall for the next 2 days.



The 3 Qs of colostrum:

Quantity - Give a first feed of **4 litres or 10% of body weight**. Followed by another similar feed within 12 hours of birth.

Quality - **Good** quality colostrum contains **at least 50g/litre of IgG**. Any colostrum containing **less than 20g/litre** should **not** be used.

Quickly - Calves should receive their first colostrum feed ASAP after birth, **ideally within 2 hours**.

Storage of colostrum

Contamination during collection or feeding puts the calf at risk by introducing harmful bacteria when the calf has no active immunity to fight any infection. Bacterial numbers in warm colostrum double every 20 minutes.

Colostrum should be refrigerated in a clean container as quickly as possible after collection and it will store for 24 hours. If colostrum is frozen, it will keep for 12 months. It is recommended to freeze colostrum in zip lock bags and store them flat, as this allows for even defrosting.

Moving onto milk replacer

Calf milk replacer dilution rates are usually in the range 100-125g/l. Feeding amounts should vary according to calf weight, target growth rate, environmental conditions and nutritional composition of the product being fed.

Current recommendation, for most systems, is to feed 5-6 litres of milk (13-15% of calf birth weight) daily, in at least two feeds, at a concentration of 125g/l (625-750g/day). In unfavourable conditions, such as winter, then it is advised to increase the concentration to 150g/l.

Where growth rates > 0.7kg/day are targeted then the milk replacer should have a crude protein content > 20%. For lower growth rates of 0.45-0.7kg/day then a crude protein concentration of around 20% is usually more cost-effective.

Calves should be at least double their birth-weight at weaning which, if feeding milk for approximately eight weeks equals a growth rate of 0.7-0.8kg/day, dependant on birth-weight.

Optimising growth rates while being fed milk not only promotes calf health but has also been shown to improve performance after weaning and into adulthood. However, this should be achieved through a balance of milk and hard feed to promote rumen development.

Check list

- A common mistake during milk replacer preparation is to add milk powder to 1 litre of water and then mix; but to make up the correct concentration, eg 125g/l, then 125g of milk powder needs to be topped up with water to 1 litre of mixed milk and not vice versa.
- Avoid heat damage at mixing by making up the milk with warm water. Do not use boiling water initially, followed by cold water to make up the volume as this will denature the protein in the milk. Keep the temperature below 50°C.
- Clean, fresh water should always be available as well as milk and should be kept separate from milk feeding. Water intake promotes rumen development and dry feed intake.
- Starter feed should be available from one week of age. Calves should also have access to long fibre, preferably straw, in racks to encourage solid feed intake.
- Feed calves at the same times each day, at the same temperature, at the same concentration and with the same product.
- Cleanliness is paramount.

Colostrum immunity can also be measured by blood sampling young calves. Please speak to one of our vets for more information.



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