

Nematodirus Reminder

The recent warm weather means that growing lambs are currently at a high risk of Nematodirus. Lambs aged 6-12 weeks are generally considered to be at the highest risk, however younger lambs may also be affected. This is particularly likely this year as the hard winter has meant that many ewes are in poor body condition. This will impact on milk yields which may force lambs to become increasingly reliant on grass at an earlier age.

Nematodirus and coccidiosis will present with very similar signs and it is for this reason that we strongly recommend regular muck sampling of growing lambs. Post mortem of any sudden death cases can also be extremely valuable. For more information contact the office and speak to any of our farm vets.

Product Focus on...

Aluspray

We now stock Aluspray as well as the traditional blue spray. Aluspray forms an aluminium powder barrier for wounds. It doesn't contain any antibiotics, but forms a barrier which allows wounds to heal whilst protecting them from moisture and infection. Aluspray can be used following castration or dehorning and to protect wounds.



Focus on Fly Control

It's that time of year again and the earlier you commence with your summer programme of fly control the better. With a wide range of products available it is important to know what you are using and how often it should be repeated. We have both Ectofly and Spotinor in stock and available at competitive rates.

PRODUCT	LICENSED IN	CONTROLS	DURATION OF ACTION	WITHDRAWAL
ECTOFLY	Sheep	Flies (including established blowfly strike) lice and ticks	6-8 weeks	Meat: 8 days Milk: Not licensed for sheep producing milk for human consumption
SPOTINOR	Cattle and Sheep	Flies (including established blowfly strike) lice and ticks	4-8 weeks, do not repeat after less than 4 weeks	Milk: cattle 0hr (Not licensed for sheep producing milk for human consumption) Meat: 17 days

Upcoming Courses

Bridget will be running a Mastering Medicines Workshop for dairy and beef farmers on Thursday 28th June. Attendance at this course will allow you to meet Red Tractor Guidelines for the safe administration of medicines. The course runs from 10:30am to 2:30pm and costs £45 (excl. VAT) per person. **For more information or to book a place please contact the office on 08458 330034 and ask for Vicky.**

Cheshire Show

Come and see us at Cheshire Show! This year we'll be in the Agri-Centre, opposite the cattle rings, so do pop in and say Hello.

Have you had abortions in your flock this year?



Abortion is a common but mostly preventable occurrence in sheep flocks. If your abortion rate was greater than 2% then it is likely that infectious causes such as toxoplasmosis or enzootic abortion may have been involved. We are able to identify these by blood sampling ewes who have aborted through the Expertis FlockCheck service. The scheme is sponsored by MSD Animal Health and is available until July 31st. For more information or to arrange a visit please contact the practice and ask for Matt.

Toxovax and Cevac are now available to order. Due to supply shortages in previous years we are recommending that you order early to avoid disappointment. Both vaccines can be used in ewe lambs from five months of age and can be given up to 4 months ahead of tupping. We are currently offering a 5% discount on all Toxovax ordered for use by 31st August, for more information please ring the office and speak to Rachael.

Congratulations

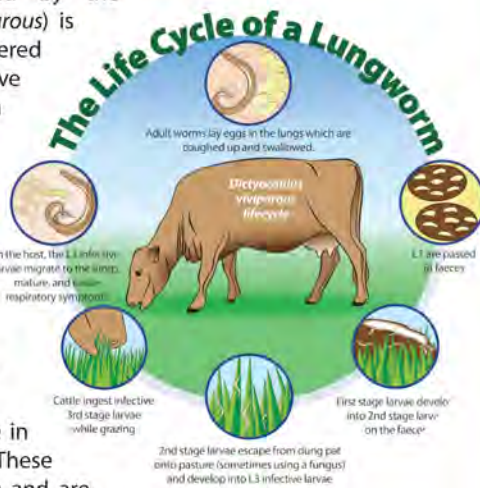
Congratulations to Carly McGuinness who married Tony Mathers on May 19th at Macclesfield Registry Office. Carly has worked within our support staff team for several years and has recently taken on the role of TB test coordinator. The newly weds are currently honeymooning in Cape Verde and will be celebrating with a big party next month. We're sure you'll join us in wishing them a long and happy marriage.



Lungworm in Cattle and its Management

Lungworm or 'Husk' (caused by the roundworm *Dictyocaulus viviparus*) is a common problem encountered in our area. Many farms will have a known history of lungworm so we plan to manage the disease on these farms but it is increasingly being seen on farms with no history. This is because wetter summers increase the risk and the parasite can be spread between pastures by many means – including buying-in infected animals.

The parasite emerges as larvae in the dung of infected animals. These larvae then mature on pasture and are ingested by unaffected animals. They cross the gut lining and head to the lungs where they mature to the adult stages. The adults will then shed fresh larvae which migrate out of the animals' upper airways to be swallowed and passed out in dung – completing the lifecycle.



The coughing and respiratory signs seen are due to an inflammatory reaction that the animal develops to the migrating larvae and sometimes due to large parasite burdens causing lower airway blockage.

Wet summers, high stocking densities and large numbers of animals with no immunity are all major risk factors for a lungworm outbreak.

Lungworm can cause considerable clinical disease and economic losses in young, growing cattle as well as adults. Early signs are an increased respiratory rate at rest and occasional coughing, especially after short periods of exercise such as being moved. Multiple animals in the group tend to be affected. As the disease progresses you will see animals struggling for breath, becoming reluctant to move and coughing at rest. When the disease is at its worst animals will stand with their heads and necks extended, struggling for breath and may have froth at the mouth and be unwilling to eat. Signs in the dairy herd will start with a reduction in the bulk tank volume along with coughing as they are brought in for milking.

Youngstock

First season grazing animals tend to be most at risk as they have not had the chance to develop any immunity. These animals will benefit greatly from vaccination before turnout. Other options involve using strategic worming doses or sustained release worm boluses. These are commonly used but can be less reliable as they do not always allow for animals to mount a strong immune response. Overuse of wormers for this purpose may lead to farm-specific wormer resistance.



Adult cows

These may have developed some immunity to lungworm as youngstock either through exposure or vaccination but will only last for up to 6 months if they are not challenged by infection. **We see cases in adults bought onto an infected farm from a 'clean' farm, or animals from zero-grazed herds going to pasture for the first time.** The level of immunity in each animal varies as does the level of exposure to lungworm larvae on pasture therefore even adult cattle presumed immune can become infected. Signs typically seen will be milk drop (sometimes up to 50%) in the dairy herd as well as coughing. Lost milk production will cost between £1.50 and £3 per cow per day with recovery taking between 10 and 20 days. Growth rates in beef animals can be severely impaired with many animals actually losing condition. The disease can be rapidly fatal in some animals.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis is done by confirming the presence of lungworm larvae in the faeces or via blood test to detect antibodies. Please be aware that lungworms have a 3 week

lifecycle so dung sampling too early may result in a false negative result – speak to a farm vet about this.

Top 10 tips for Lungworm control as advised by COWS (Control of Worms Sustainably)

Identify risk:

1. Lungworm is unpredictable but is more common in wetter, western areas.
2. Suspect lungworm if coughing is seen in grazing cattle.
3. Animals that have been exposed and recovery will be immune to re-infection.
4. Quarantine and treat incoming stock for roundworms and fluke (speak to a vet about drug selection).

Treat Correctly:

5. Vaccination should be used for first grazers on farms with a lungworm history – once started this must not be stopped.
6. Vaccination is not advised on farms where risk is low or with no lungworm history.
7. Wormers can be used strategically to reduce worm burdens in first grazers that are not vaccinated. Overuse will reduce contact time between the parasite and the animal and limit the development of immunity. You can always consider using vaccination for the second grazing season.
8. Treatment success depends on severity – mildly affected animals may recover without treatment but severely affected animals may die. Do not use oral wormers in severely affected animals.
9. Severely affected animals will require more than a wormer – please speak to a vet about this.

Plan Ahead:

10. Work out a control strategy. Lungworm outbreaks can cause severe losses and even death in cattle. This can happen at relatively low pasture infection levels. Farms with a history of lungworm should consider vaccination as an integral part of their overall herd health plan.



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