

Product News

Abortion Prevention in Sheep

Both **Toxovax** and **Cevac Chlamydia** are still available to order through the office. Remember that ewes can be vaccinated up to 4 months prior to tupping and we strongly recommend that you vaccinate as soon as possible as we often see manufacturing issues with these vaccines later in the season. 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.

Flies and Eyes

The recent warm weather means that we are seeing lots of issues caused by flies- in particular eye infections in cattle.

New Forest Eye is caused by the bacteria **Moraxella bovis** which is spread by flies. Dust is also a risk factor which may explain why we have seen an increase in cases this year. Signs are obvious, however it is worth having a close look in the affected eye to rule out other causes of eye disease such as foreign bodies or trauma.

Topical treatment using a licensed antibiotic cream is generally effective. We don't recommend the use of lactating cow tubes to treat eyes as this is off license and can increase irritation. It should be remembered that New Forest Eye is extremely painful due to corneal ulceration, therefore affected animals will benefit from additional treatment with a suitable anti-inflammatory such as **Metacam** or **Ketofen**.

As with so many diseases, prevention is key so ensuring that you stay on top of fly control is a must. We stock both Ectofly and Spotinor at competitive prices; please speak to Rachael for a quote.

Upcoming Courses

Bridget will be running **Mastering Medicines Workshops** on September 25th and also on October 2nd, 9th and 23rd. Attendance at this course will allow you to meet Red Tractor requirements for the safe handling and administration of medicines. The course runs from 10:30am to 2:30pm and costs £55 (excl. VAT) per person. For more information or to book a place please contact the office on 01477 571000 and ask for Vicky.

Bridget is also able to come to your farm to run bespoke training courses for the whole team. This helps to ensure that everyone who is involved in the administration of veterinary medicines is using them correctly and responsibly. If you are interested in this then please contact Bridget on 07733 121533 or bridget@wmvets.co.uk.

Helen is organising a practical training session on **selective dry cow therapy and tube infusion techniques**. This is very much a hands on session, using PM udders, so delegates will leave feeling confident of their infusion techniques of both antibiotic tubes and sealant. Guidance will be given on the selection of cows for drying off with or without antibiotics. The plan is to hold this in the east of the practice - possibly Winkle/Buxton, but can be anywhere depending on demand. Please can anyone who is interested in attending contact Helen on 07733 121536 or helenworth@wmvets.co.uk so a convenient date/location can be chosen.

Action Johnes

Phase Two of the National Johnes Management Plan (**NJMP**) is now well underway and all dairy farms will need to have a Johnes disease control plan in place by October 31st. Well done to those of you have already signed up.

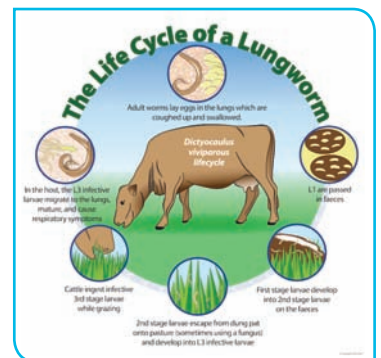
For anyone who hasn't signed up or isn't sure of what they need to do please ring the office and speak to any of our farm vets. All of our farm vets hold BCVA Johnes Advisor Accreditation and will be happy to help you.



Look Out For Lungworm

Whilst the warm dry weather means that worm burdens so far this summer have been low it is important to remain vigilant for signs of disease. Lungworm most commonly affects youngstock in their first season at grass, however it can also be seen in older animals particularly where they have not had the chance to develop any immunity or their immunity has waned- examples of this include freshly calved heifers moving to a new farm, or older animals being grazed on pasture that has been used for youngstock.

The first sign of disease is a dry cough, particularly noticeable when animals are being moved. Disease can progress rapidly so seek advice promptly if you are concerned.



Cheshire Farms Competition

It was wonderful to see so many of our clients represented amongst the winners of the Cheshire County Farms Competition this year. Congratulations to Philip Brocklehurst of Oak Farm, CW Shenton of Bridge Farm, David Venables of Holly Tree Farm, Mathew Webb of Cheadle Farm, Graham Lea of Dingle Bank Farm, Ian Norbury of Dairy Farm and SA, H and T Southworth of Green Oaks Farm.

Worming in Sheep



Anthelmintic Resistance is now part and parcel of sheep farming in the UK. Unfortunately, too many turn a blind eye to wormer resistance until it is too late. If the population of resistant worms to any product on your farm gets over 50%, there is no way back. That class of wormer will no longer be effective on your farm, and only continue to

get less effective the more you use it. It can take so little before there is a big problem, so there is an industry-wide initiative to promote sustainable wormer use. Unfortunately, we don't see a practical failure of the products (mucky tails despite treatment) until they get close to the 50% resistance threshold. This is why muck samples are so vital to know if you need to treat in the first place, and the success of your treatment. Remember that the aim of worming is not to 'clean out' sheep, but to reduce the worm burden to a low level. This removes the impact on condition and growth rates but allows each animal to be exposed to worms. With this exposure through the first grazing season, immunity to most species of worms develops.

In the past, the advice has been to worm sheep and move them onto a new pasture. This is now known to be a very quick way of increasing resistance. We would advise treating then returning the stock to the same field for around 1 week. This allows whatever resistant worms are left in the guts to be diluted by non-resistant worms from the field. If you were to move to clean grazing, the resistant worms would be the only ones depositing eggs onto that ground. This would essentially mean you had a field covered in worms resistant to the product you used.

orange drenches - if used incorrectly, we can very quickly develop resistance to these new products. We would always advise discussing the choice of product, particularly orange and purple classes, with one of the vets to ensure you get the best results. The 2 main situations these drenches are useful for are quarantine treatments for incoming stock (from wintering or sales), and as a late season drench in lambs when the burden is high.

Another way to reduce wormer use is to leave a proportion of a group untreated. For example, leaving the best, fittest lambs, or the strongest ewes. Leaving only 10% of a group untreated can reduce the development of resistance as it maintains a population of susceptible worms in the group. This dilutes those resistant worms, meaning they can breed with susceptible ones. As always, proper calibration of drenching guns is vital as under-dosing dramatically increases the generation of resistance. The same applies for weighing a group. Best results are achieved by weighing the biggest of a group and treating accordingly. If the group is spread over a broad range of weights, it may be worth splitting them into smaller and larger groups.

For more information or if you have any questions, speak to any of the vets. A really useful source for up to date information and help is the SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) website.

<http://www.scops.org.uk/>



Do YOU Drench Correctly?





1
Dose to the heaviest in the group



2
Calibrate and maintain guns regularly



3
Put the nozzle over the back of the tongue

Product choice is also vital in the fight against resistance. The 3 historic groups (white, yellow and clears) have a worrying level of resistance in the UK. With the introduction of the orange and purple groups in recent years, we now have the chance to try and slow the resistance developing in this country. However - as seen in the press recently with news of resistance to



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