

## Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter. With harvesting now completed and cultivation well underway, it is time to turn our attention to the housing period. With movement and housing stress, alongside the inevitable parasite burden picked up over the grazing season, crucial preventative treatments and vaccination may be required to ensure stock perform well over the winter months. Articles featured in this edition include: salmonella and ringworm in cattle, best practice record-keeping in sheep, and further details on the Calf Tracker scheme, plus an autumn housing parasite update and this season's VPS offers. If you have any further queries regarding pneumonia/herd vaccinations and treatments please get in touch with us in advance of housing.



**TB News** – Reduced testing over the summer months has seen fewer reactors/IRs so fingers crossed it stays this way through the busy period. Tester diaries are already starting to fill up so please contact us as soon as you receive your herd test notifications. You will be pleased to know that as part of the new XLFarmcare contract we also have to be audited. Both the practice and individual vets are put under scrutiny to ensure that we adhere to the standards required. This is scheduled for the first week of November so please be patient if your test falls as one of the vets' assessments.

**Farm Vet Aviation** – ~~Reaching for the skies~~/Well grounded!

**Dart Gun** – Mossy has been shopping!

We get asked with surprising frequency about whether we can dart an escaped animal, but until now have always had to say 'no'!

There is obviously a range of reasons why this might be useful with the most common being for escaped beef animals. This is often into unfenced areas such as arable fields and until now shooting may have been the only option, especially if they are close to a busy road or a danger to the public.

We have recently bought a dart gun that can fire a dart ranging in size from 2 to 10ml capacity, up to 100 yards. The dart has a small charge in the end to ensure the medication is injected quickly upon contact.



For now this will be a strictly ground based activity, but once G-VETT (the helicopter) is fixed, Mike will no doubt be itching to try it from the skies, and show off some of his new rhino skills. Please contact Mossy for more information.

## Ringworm

This is a very common, worldwide fungal skin disease. It has significant economic consequences for farmers due to reduced growth rates and hide damage. It has been proven in France to significantly reduce the growth rates of calves and is therefore an important economic disease to consider.

It is usually caused by dermatophyte, *Tricophyton verrucosum*, and is primarily spread by direct contact with infected animals. The spores produced by the fungi may survive for years on farms and therefore it is a hard disease to eradicate.

Lesions are usually seen on the head and neck of young animals due to rubbing against fences and pushing through feeders. Young animals are far more susceptible to the disease, although adults are frequently infected when they have had no previous exposure and therefore have no immunity.

Crowding of young animals, with poor nutrition and concurrent disease will exacerbate ringworm along with environmental factors such as lack of sunlight.

Signs of ringworm are:

- Skin lesions – greyish in colour
- Itchiness
- Hair loss
- Poor growth

Diagnosis is usually made on the recognisable lesions; laboratory tests can be used to confirm it with either hair plucks or scrapes of the crusts, hair and scale using a scalpel blade.



Bovilis Ringvac is readily available for both the prevention and treatment of ringworm. Dosing corresponds to the size of animal so the most cost-effective method is to use the vaccine in calves less than 12 weeks of age. Please contact the practice if you have any concerns regarding ringworm or want some advice on treatment or prevention.

## Spotlight on Salmonella in Cattle



### What is Salmonella?

Salmonella is a bacterium that can cause infection in most mammals, including humans, causing a range of clinical signs discussed below. The signs usually affect calves, but can be seen in cattle of any age. Outbreaks can be devastating in herds due to the potential scale and severity of infection.

The bacteria are shed in faeces at times of stress such as calving and transport – these are often what trigger the spread of infection from carrier animals.

### Clinical Signs

- Diarrhoea
- Abortion
- Pneumonia

- Blood poisoning
- Joint infections
- Milk drop
- Death

It is important to note however, that these are also the clinical signs for many other diseases so proper investigation is indicated.

### Diagnosis

A fast diagnosis can limit the effects of the disease on your herd so it is important to notify the practice if you notice any of the clinical signs listed above. By doing this we can save time and money, and minimise animal suffering. There are several ways in which we can try to diagnose Salmonella these include:

- Post mortem
- Scour samples
- Testing of aborted material

### Treatment and Prevention

Prevention is the key rather than a cure. This can be attempted in a number of ways when considering your overall herd management programme.

One aspect is to consider how Salmonella can be introduced to the farm. This can be via replacement stock, birds and rodents, feedstuffs and watercourses, muck and slurry and on clothing or vehicles. It is critical to check the health status of source farms when buying in stock and other aspects of biosecurity need to be seriously considered – e.g. quarantine and careful hygiene on farm.

Vaccination is a vital part of the herd management programme. It is simple to get started with a two dose primary course followed by a single dose annual booster (this is important to continue in order to maintain continuous protection).

Although Salmonella is never going to disappear totally, there are a number of steps you can take to reduce the risks of an outbreak on your farm. Contact the practice to make sure you have an appropriate plan in place to protect your stock.

## **Most important aspects of a *Salmonella* control programme**

### **FOR HERDS FREE OF SALMONELLA FOCUS ON PREVENTING INFECTION BEING BROUGHT ONTO THE FARM:**

- Maintain a closed herd if possible.
- If buying-in, source new stock from high health status farms, and quarantine all introduced stock for at least 4 weeks.
- Animals which fail to sell at the mart or which are attending a show should be quarantined on return.
- Avoid shared equipment, bulls and communal grazing areas.
- Maintain good fences (double fencing with 3m buffer zone is recommended at farm boundaries).
- Good calving box hygiene.
- Protect all feed and bedding from vermin. Do not use same bucket loaders for feed and muck.
- Use piped mains water rather than natural water sources.
- All visitors must clean and disinfect boots/clothing before entering/leaving the farm. Ideally provide farm clothing for any visitors.
- Investigate abortions, scour cases or other illnesses with the aid of laboratory analysis as early as possible.
- Consider herd vaccination with Bovivac S for herds at risk despite good biosecurity measures being implemented.

### **FOR HERDS INFECTED WITH SALMONELLA FOCUS ON REDUCING THE RISKS OF SPREADING SALMONELLA BACTERIA:**

- Herd vaccination with Bovivac S, including annual boosters ahead of the risk period.
- Implement strict biosecurity plan (see left) to speed disease control and avoid outward contamination of other farms.
- Isolate sick animals in dedicated isolation boxes.
- Segregate and treat clinical cases.
- All buildings should have good drainage and waste removal, and must be cleaned and disinfected between occupancies.
- Good calving box hygiene.
- Ensure that milk from ill cows (or cows that have been in contact with ill cows) is not fed to calves.
- Only spread slurry on arable land wherever possible (*Salmonella* can survive in soil for up to a year).
- Strict personal hygiene to reduce risk of infection in farm workers, and minimise transmission to other animals.
- Older people and children should not have access to potentially infected areas.
- Unpasteurised milk should never be consumed.

## Calf Tracker

The Calf Tracker initiative is in full swing; however we are still looking to get more farmers involved in this exciting initiative aimed at maximising growth and potential for rearing productive heifers with higher levels of longevity within your herd.

There are several key performance indicators which need recording in order for us to benchmark your results against other farms.

### 1. Growth rate to weaning/eight weeks old

You require a start weight and start date which may be either birth weight or arrival weight and an end weight and end date. Within a dairy herd where birth weights are pretty uniform you may be able to use an average birth weight.

This can be done with the weigh band included in your calf rearing pack or with scales. However you weigh your calves, it needs to be done with the same equipment at birth and at weaning.



### 2. Total mortality rate from birth to weaning

Number of calf deaths from 24 hours old to weaning divided by the number of calves born alive/on-farm within the same period.

### 3. Pneumonia rate

Number of cases of pneumonia divided by the number of calves born/on farm over the same period of time (a three month period will give a good idea of what is going on).

### 4. Scour rate

Number of cases of scour divided by the number of calves born/on-farm over the same period of time (a three month period gives a good idea of what is going on).

### 5. Total proteins

This is a simple blood test which indicates the level of colostrum transfer which has taken place. A blood sample is taken from calves from one to eight days old. Readings over 5.5g/L indicate that the calf has received adequate colostrum. These can be taken by yourselves or by our farm technicians or by your vet on a routine visit.



Please feel free to get in touch with Harriet for a chat regarding joining the scheme.

The next meeting is on Friday November 4th and with a speaker from Volac focussing on Milk Powder. Venue TBC, please contact the practice if you are interested in attending.



## Recording sheep health and productivity

One of the challenges vets face when doing flock health reviews is assessing the previous year's production figures. Mike discussed with two of his large commercial flocks how they gather and go about recording their data.

The farm weekly diary (WHSmith!) was the common thread. Any notes during the day were recorded either on an iPhone using voice recording or memorised and then written religiously in the diary the next morning over the routine of the coffee after breakfast. All health data (lameness, mastitis) and animal procedures/movements are recorded on the "weekly page" sheet, a monthly stock tally on the "credit debit account" page, scanning results and number of wet/dry dead lambs under "notes" and next year's events at the end of diary in the upcoming "calendar" over 2 pages. The movement book and medicine book are updated from the diary. Both farms which sell direct to slaughter assess their lamb sales from the slaughter house returns. This also gives an accurate date each year that lambs are drawn and their carcass grades.



A stock clicker is a useful addition to place beside the dead lamb bin to keep track of lamb mortality over lambing with out having to count out the dead stinky lambs at collection time.

When we review the health and production data we like to start at tupping: checking when the rams went in and scanning results. From there we can calculate back as to number of lambs either sold or weaned and ascertain where the losses were and what they were attributed to. We then can drill into how to improve the losses for next year. Similarly we assess ewe mortality and cull rates and whether they are excessive. Having quick and accessible production figures allows us to have a more meaningful discussion.

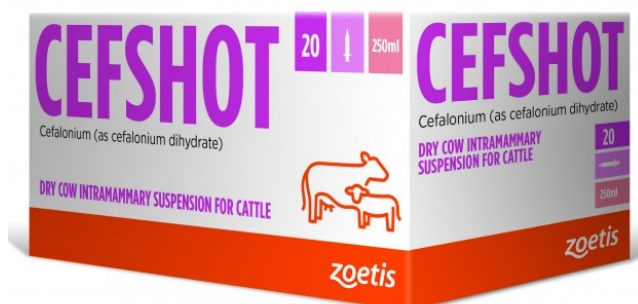
January Account				February Account			
Debit				Credit			
1863	37			1856	37		
-3				-2			
ACIDOSIS				INTREST			
1860				OUT			
-2				1854			
INTREST				-1			
OUT				INTREST			
1858				OUT			
-1				1853			
INTREST				-1			
OUT				THIN			
-1				-24			
CAUGHT				BARMENT			
1st DAIRY				REWARDS			
ROCK				1828			
1856				-1			
				Prologue			
				-1			
				CASE			
				1826			

Notes	
SCANNING 2016	
YELLOWS	S - 80
	P - 396
	T - 59
GREENS	S - 58
	P - 306
	T - 79
REDS	S - 56
	P - 232
	T - 78
BLUES	S - 110
	P - 294
	T - 36
PURPLE	S - 15
	P - 28
EMPTY	- 23 (1.2%)
TOTAL	1850 (3587 WAYS SCAN)
Singles	17%
Twins	68%
Triples	13.6%

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Wk	Month
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31	July
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	32	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	33	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	34	
29	30	31					35	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31	August
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	32	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	33	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	34	
29	30	31					35	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31	September
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	32	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	33	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	34	
29	30	31					35	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31	October
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	32	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	33	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	34	
29	30	31					35	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31	November
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	32	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	33	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	34	
29	30	31					35	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	31	December
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	32	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	33	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	34	
29	30	31					35	

**Ordering** – With new reception staff across the branches, multiple ordering channels, fridge products and more farmers with the same surname, we have had a few errors with dispensing and part order collections. To help reduce this we have put a 'signed for system' in place. Please help us by checking the farm details and orders are correct before signing the drug dockets at collection. Also please try to ensure whoever is collecting products knows your full order details.

**Product news** – We will be switching to Cefshot Dry Cow tubes (Zoetis) from Cepravin DC (MSD) once stocks are used up. This is exactly the same antibiotic DCT made by a highly reputable manufacturer at a reduced cost per tube to our clients. Standard pack size is 120 tubes to fit with Orbeseal packs but smaller orders are fine. We are now stocking Finadyne transdermal as an anti-inflammatory pour-on which will be particularly useful for clinical mastitis in the parlour alongside MCT to save injecting. Milk withdrawal is 36 hours and meat 7 days.



**Staff News** – In November we are welcoming back Kirsty Black into Farm Veterinary Solutions as our Vet Tech. Working alongside Robyn we will be able to offer blood samples, mobility scoring, help with Calf Tracker, on farm faecal egg count testing and other procedures. Please contact the practice if you are interested in enlisting their help.

Due to the expansion of FVS we are employing an additional member of staff to be based at Melton. The role will be primarily answering the phone and sorting the diary to get vets out to you as efficiently as possible.



Kirsty Black and Robyn Oram



## **Autumn Housing Parasite Control**

**Roundworms/Lungworm** - With recent focus on reduced wormer usage, pasture worm burdens will build up after a long grazing season. Housing treatment should aim to remove both the adult gut/lungworms present that will lead to reduced performance over the winter months and also reduce the larval burden which may cause problems later. As we get in to autumn grazing the late Ostertagia (brown stomach worm) survive the winter by encysting as larvae in the gut wall before emerging in the spring ready to start the cycle again. This mass emergence can lead to marked diarrhoea, weight loss and even death in young cattle. Ivermectin is generally the worming product of choice for beef cattle and youngstock as it is highly effective against these encysted stages and there is no requirement for any residual activity after housing. For adult dairy cattle and in-calf heifers, eprinomectin is the product of choice with zero milk withdrawal. For organic farmers who can't use the clear group of wormers, the white drenches are most effective against larval stages with poor activity from the yellow group.

**Liver fluke** - With Liver fluke feeding directly on blood, anaemia and protein loss can have massive sub-clinical effects before overt signs of disease are seen in late winter and spring. Fluke control needs to be based on individual farm situations and monitored yearly. If the farm's fluke status is unknown then please give us a call regarding testing (milk/blood/faeces) and try to access your abattoir reports as these will highlight any liver condemnations. If fluke has been previously confirmed in either cattle or sheep, or you are buying in animals from unknown sources then treatment should be given to prevent expensive performance loss. Liver flukes take 10-12 weeks to complete their lifecycle within the animal and certain products will only treat late immature/adult stages so the timing of treatment post-housing is important. Triclabendazole drench is the only product that kills the early stages and can be used from 1 week post-housing. Treatment with the pour-on/injectable products should be delayed for 6-10 weeks post housing so may not be ideal for farms with heavy burdens. Withdrawal periods for both milk and meat need to be taken into account with many products now banned in dairy animals including in calf heifers. Flukicide rotation is also important to prevent the build-up of resistance on farm similar to roundworms.

**Rumen Fluke** - We have now diagnosed rumen fluke on a few of our farms. The life cycle is similar to liver fluke but relying on water snails as an intermediate host and then spending its time attached to the rumen wall. Heavy burdens of immature stages can cause diarrhoea and ill thrift. Oxyclozanide is the only product with activity against rumen fluke and then only on the adult forms which generally don't cause clinical signs. However if diagnosed on farm, treatment 10-12 weeks post-housing is advised to help reduce next year's pasture burden.

**Ecto-parasites** - Animals generally enter the housing period with low level ecto-parasite burdens that can then rapidly increase due to close contact and long hair growth. This can lead to loss in performance, itching, mange and hair loss. Ivermectins, both pour-on or injectable, given at housing helps to reduce the initial challenge but further treatments with synthetic pyrethroids may need to be given over the winter, so please contact us if you notice any signs.

**Please see our autumn housing offers overleaf or contact us at Melton for any further information required. Offers available until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.**

<b>Autumn Deals</b>	<b>Details/Uses</b>	<b>Withdrawal (Guide Only)</b>	<b>Dose</b>	<b>Pack Sizes</b>	<b>Price (Excl. Vat)</b>
<b>Enovex pour-on</b>	<b>Ivermectin</b> pour-on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle	Cattle Meat 28days Milk >60days	1ml/10kg	2.5Litre	£26
<b>Eprizero pour-on</b>	<b>Eprinomectin</b> pour-on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle	Cattle Meat 10days Milk 0Hours	1ml/10kg	2.5Litre 5Litre	£149 £279
<b>Noromectin 1% Multi-injection</b>	<b>Ivermectin</b> injection for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle, sheep and pigs	Cattle Meat 49days Milk >60days Sheep Meat 42days	1ml/50kg	50ml 300ml 750ml	£12 £28 £48
<b>Closamectin pour-on</b>	<b>Ivermectin + Closantel</b> pour-on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle	Cattle Meat 28days Milk Do not use (>150 days)	1ml/10kg	1Litre 2.5Litre 4Litre 6Litre +Gun	£115 £204 £340 (-£40 Cashback) £495 (-£60 Cashback)
<b>Closamectin injection</b>	<b>Ivermectin + Closantel</b> injection for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle and sheep	Cattle Meat 49days Milk Do not use Sheep Meat 28days	1ml/25kg	250ml 500ml 4x500ml	£49 £93 £320
<b>Fasinex 240</b>	<b>Triclabendazole</b> oral drench for control of early immature to adult fluke in cattle.	Cattle Meat 52days Milk 50days	5ml/100kg	2.2Litre 5Litre	£156 £291
<b>Zanil</b>	<b>Oxyclozanide</b> oral drench for cattle and sheep for control of adult liver and rumen fluke only.	Cattle Meat 28days Milk 72hours	Cattle 3ml/10kg	5Litre	£76
<b>Noromectin 0.08% drench for sheep</b>	<b>Ivermectin</b> drench for control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep	Sheep Meat 14days	2.5ml/10kg	2.5Litre 5Litre 2x 5Litre	£23 £40 £71
<b>Triclafas 5%</b>	<b>Triclabendazole</b> drench for control of early immature to adult liver fluke in sheep	Sheep Meat 56days	1ml/5kg	2.5Litre 5Litre	£32 £56
<b>Solantel (New Product)</b>	<b>Closantel</b> drench for control of late immature and adult liver fluke and Haemonchus (barbers pole worm) in sheep (Flukiver alternative)	Sheep Meat 42days	1ml/5kg	1Litre 2.5Litre 5Litre	£34 £64 £113
<b>Rotavec Corona</b>	Vaccine for cattle in late pregnancy to improve colostral antibody levels against common causes of calf scour.	Cattle Meat 0days Milk 0days	2ml s/c	10ml 40ml	£45 £162