Farm Veterinary Solutions

Newsletter
Summer 2018

A member of XL Vets Farm

Inside this issue:

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO HERD HEALTH GUIDELINES

Changes to Red Tractor Guidelines on Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HP-CIAs).

As of June 1st we have changed our protocols for dispensing HP-CIAs in line with new Red Tractor compliance standards for both dairy, beef and lamb producers. Information can be found on the Red Tractor website but the new standard now reads:

"As of June 1st 2018 the use of HP-CIAs must only be as a last resort under veterinary direction and backed up by diagnostic/sensitivity testing."

For farm assured clients of the practice this may change some of the medicines you have available as first line treatments. When ordering these medicines, the reception team will now have to put you in contact with a vet who can discuss alternatives and/or testing required so please be patient with them.

RED TRACTOR GUIDELINES
CONTINUED

Some of the medicines that will require extra veterinary direction and testing include:

- **Fluoroquinolone injectables -** A180/Baytril/Marbocyl/Marbox
- **3rd/4th generation cephalosporin injectables -** Naxcel/Excenel/Cevaxel/Readycef/Cobactan
- **3rd/4th generation tubes -** Cefimam LC and DC/Cobactan LC/Cephaguard DC

Sadly no alternative nil milk withdrawal injectables are currently available in the UK so please speak to us to discuss alternative treatments for lameness/metritis etc. in milking cows for the short term. We are now hopeful that Ceporex should be a product back in stock by the end of this year.

Red Tractor are advising that at least one member of the farm team (whether beef, sheep or dairy) has formal training and certification in the safe use and administration of medicines. MilkSure training can be delivered by the practice.

To cope with the high numbers of dairy clients now registering we are planning some introductory group sessions in conjunction with the dairies.

Please visit **https://milksure.co.uk/** for registration details. Once you have received your individual training packs and assessment login we can then complete the individual training sessions.

Alternatively, courses are also available through XL Vets Farmskills, LANTRA or City & Guilds.

New Dairy Herd Health Planning template

As part of our commitment to help dairy clients work through the changes adopted by the various milk processors, FVS have produced a new Dairy Herd Health Plan template. With all the extra requirements now in place, health plans and reviews are far more rigorous so please don't just contact us when your dairy inspection is announced. Processor spot checks will become more frequent to ensure compliance so all clients need to maintain an up to date health plan and annual signed review.

Designed in Power Point format the template can be easily emailed to clients well in advance of your annual veterinary health and performance review. Specifically designed to cover the new Clawson farm standards, the template will also comply with other processor guidelines, however extra specific documents may also require completion.

To save you time and money on your vet review please visit or contact the practice for a copy of the template now.

It is colour coded with:

- **Blue areas covering facts that should be completed by the farmer before the visit**
- **Green discussion areas for completion during your vet review**
- **Orange areas for completion by the vet only**

Once filled in, the template can be easily edited on an annual basis at your vet review, stored electronically and made available by email to processors etc.

National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP) update

In addition to the Red Tractor changes, any dairy clients supplying processors engaged in the NJMP will need to comply with changes announced in their May 2018 update.

To quote - It has been agreed:

- ***A formal veterinary declaration needs to be signed by the farmer and his/her vet to state that an assessment of Johne's risk and status has been undertaken on each farm in the last 12 months and that there is a written Johne's management plan in place which has been agreed with the herd owner. By 31st October 2018 all farmers supplying purchaser members of the scheme will need to have completed this task and the declaration***
- ***A similar form will be re-circulated in late 2018, so from November 2019 we can make the level of engagement achieved by purchaser members publicly available on the Action Johne's website***

Please see www.actionjohnesuk.org for details of the scheme.

Individual herd Johne's risk assessments, selection of one of the six control strategies, herd management plan and screening level must be discussed with one of our accredited vets who can then sign your declaration. There is a designated slide on the new health planning template where control measures can be reviewed and updated to aid compliance.

The supporting documents (risk assessment/test results/ declaration) should then be included in the appendix.

Please speak to your vet on your next visit for further details or contact the practice on 01664 567481 for further advice.

RADIAL TB TESTING
Alvaro Rico Minguez

As some of you already know a new Radial TB Test has been established by APHA which means that herds within 3km of a holding which has a TB outbreak will have to undertake a test in the following counties:

- Rutland
- Leicestershire
- Northamptonshire
- Nottinghamshire

Some counties which are at risk of geographic spread of disease in the short to medium term have also been placed on annual (or more frequent) testing at least since 2013 (Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, and East Sussex). These constitute the TB Edge Area of England.

Extended radial testing around lesion and/or culture positive TB breakdowns in all other parts of the new Edge Area i.e. Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex and remaining parts of Derbyshire, Berkshire and Hampshire will also be taking place. This will consist of an immediate herd test followed by one more herd test after six months before the herd goes back to its default annual testing frequency.

However, any individual herds in the four yearly testing LRA that are considered to be at a higher risk of infection (because of management practices or recent disease history) will still be placed on annual testing. This includes herds that fall within (or straddle) a 3km radius circle from an lesion and/or culture positive TB breakdown, or are considered to be epidemiologically relevant to that breakdown, will be subject to an immediate herd test of all the cattle on the premises aged six weeks or older. This will be followed by additional check tests at six and 12 months. If this enhanced surveillance fails to detect further evidence of infection in the vicinity of a lesion or culture positive TB breakdown, the herds will revert to background four yearly testing.

Also interferon gamma blood testing will continue to apply in lesion and/or culture positive TB breakdowns in the LRA and Edge Areas.

Regardless of area forward and back tracer tests will still be required on animals from lesion/culture positive breakdown herds. When these tracers overlap with whole herd or other tests please ensure the vets testing are aware so they can be submitted separately. Mandatory private pre-movement testing of animals in the annual zone will continue, alongside post-movement testing of animals 60-120 days after arrival in the lower risk area from the edge or higher risk areas (subject to certain exemptions). If you have any queries about the testing level applied to your herd please contact our TB coordinator Vicky at the Melton branch.

WHY THE ITCH?

Rebecca Davenport

Sheep scab

Sheep scab is currently one of the most contagious diseases seen within the sheep industry. In Scotland it is a notifiable disease.

Psoroptes ovis under the microscope (www.nadis.org.uk)

It is caused by the mite, *Psoroptes ovis* and is most commonly seen in the winter and spring months, when sheep have full fleeces and are more intensively grouped. Based on the severity of clinical signs, **the disease can have a huge impact on the health and welfare of the flock, as well as significant financial implications due to production losses.**

Scab mites feed on the skin surface causing intense itching (pruritis). This can lead to skin damage, wool breakage and complete loss of fleece. **The irritation can be so severe that it interrupts feeding, leading to dramatic weight loss and in severe cases signs of fitting.**

Clinical signs of fleece loss, itching and weight loss (www.nadis.org.uk)

Recently infected sheep may not show clinical signs and can be a potential source of infection. The disease is most commonly transmitted from sheep to sheep but the **mite can survive for 17 days in the environment** so handling facilities, transport vehicles and clothing can also be a route of infection.

Diagnoses is based on taking skin scrapes from the peripheral regions of scab areas or a blood test can pick up earlier detection of the disease. Other differentials to consider include lice and at this time of year, blowfly strike.

Prevention is key.

- Maintaining a closed flock where possible will significantly reduce the risk of introducing the parasite into your flock
- Ensure a quarantine protocol is in place for any replacements bought on to the farm. Ideally, they should be isolated for at least three weeks in a space where there is no nose to nose contact with current livestock
- At this stage blood testing for exposure to the mite is advised or alternatively prophylactic treatment can be given

Monitor for signs of itching during the quarantine period.

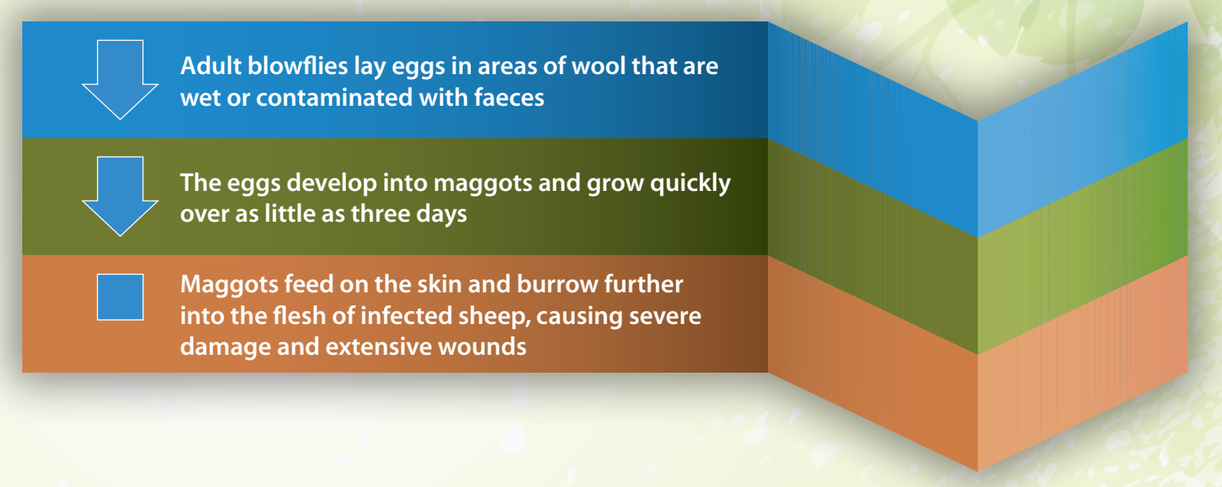
Double fencing areas close to neighbouring flocks can also reduce the risk of transmission. Ultimately it is important to investigate all causes of itchy sheep or fleece loss in order to prevent this disease from spreading.

Sheep scab control is an important aspect to discuss during your veterinary flock health plan visit.

Blowfly strike

With the sunny days and warmer weather, it is a key time to be monitoring for and ensuring measures to prevent blowfly strike are taken in to consideration.

It is primarily caused by the greenbottle, *Lucilia sericata*.



Cypermethrin (Crovect) is a product used to treat fly strike in sheep. It needs to be applied topically to the sites of infection. It can provide prevention for up to 6-8 weeks and has a meat withhold of 8 days. Additional antibiotics and anti-inflammatories may be required depending on the severity of infection.

Other products can be used for the prevention of fly strike. Dicyclanil (Clik) provides protection for 16 weeks and has a meat withhold of 40 days or alternatively Clikzin contains the same ingredient but has a shorter meat withhold of 7 days. It is advised to follow the datasheet with regards to when the products should be used around shearing time.

FlockCheck Reminder

Have you had an abnormal number of barren ewes this year?
Or issues with weak and sickly lambs?
Do you vaccinate against infectious causes of abortion?

MSD are subsidising the testing of 6-8 barren ewes from your flock to screen for Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis.
FlockCheck is running until the end of July.

Contact the Melton Branch on 01664 567481 to discuss further


CAUSES OF SUDDEN DEATH IN CATTLE AND SHEEP

Hannah Davidson and Caroline Hambling

Sudden death can occur at any time and often comes as a shock to stockholders. It is therefore important to understand the most common causes and where possible, how they can be prevented.

The causes of sudden death can be divided into 4 main categories:

1. Infectious agents
2. Feed related
3. Trauma
4. Toxicities

Lightning strikes may also cause issues over the summer months with a number of animals often being found beneath trees.

Sheep

Infectious agents

The most common cause of sudden death in sheep is related to clostridial toxins, causing diseases such as: botulism, tetanus, lamb dysentry and pulpy kidney.

These diseases have very few antemortem signs, so death is the first thing you will notice. **There are a variety of vaccines available to prevent these diseases which our vets are happy to advise on.**

Acute pneumonias and septicaemias, caused by bacterial agents such as *Mannheimia haemolytica* (previously known as Pasteurellosis), can also be a cause of sudden death.

Pneumonia is the biggest cause of sudden death in lambs in the UK between August and December. Pneumonia can affect sheep of all ages and can be prevented with a combination of good hygiene (particularly in the lambing shed) and vaccination. Combination vaccines are available which cover clostridial disease and Pasteurella agents. Ewes should be vaccinated during pregnancy to confer immunity to the lambs.

Parasites can also be a cause of sudden death.

***Nematodirus battus* is a worm which can cause sudden death in 6-12 week old lambs**

A period of cold weather followed by an increase in temperature causes a mass hatching of eggs which can lead to overwhelming infestation. Coccidosis often occurs in combination with N. battus.

Acute liver fluke can result in sudden death. Infection is highest in September and October, particularly following a wet summer. **Sudden death tends to occur 3-6 weeks after infection.** Parasitic death can be avoided via a good worming programme, including use of flukicides where appropriate and regular faecal worm egg counts.

Feed related causes

Include rumen acidosis, bloat, hypomagnesaemia and **white muscle disease.** Acidosis and bloat are discussed further in the cattle section. **Red gut** occurs occasionally in weaned lambs or adult sheep grazing legumes or rich pasture. The rapid passage of food through the gut combined with a small volume of ruminal contents and fermentation in the large intestine causes twisting of the gut. **White muscle disease** is a deficiency of selenium/ vitamin E. This can cause stiffness generally affecting the muscles of the limbs but if it affects the respiratory muscle or muscle of the heart it may result in sudden death.

Trauma

Traumatic causes may include injuries sustained through accidents involving machinery, fighting between animals and trauma caused with a dosing gun. The cause of death is often apparent from visual inspection of the carcass.

Toxins

Certain sheep breeds (including the Texel and Suffolk) are predisposed to **chronic copper toxicity.** Stress can cause the release of large amount of copper from the liver into the bloodstream leading to destruction of red blood cells and death. **Acute copper toxicity** can occur in any breed of sheep. Other toxicities such as plants or lead should also be considered.

CATTLE

Infectious agents

Anthrax is a notifiable disease and has not been seen in the UK since 2015. However due to the risk to human health, any suspicion of anthrax must be reported and the carcass must not be opened until this has been ruled out.

Clostridial diseases are also seen in cattle and cause conditions known as black disease, blackleg, malignant oedema, tetanus and botulism. Tetanus is commonly seen in young animals after castration or disbudding where clostridial spores have been able to enter the body. This causes muscle stiffness leading eventually to respiratory failure. **Botulism** causes progressive muscle paralysis and most cases are euthanased on humane grounds, there is a link between poultry litter and the disease. Cheap efficacious vaccines are available against many of the clostridial diseases but do not yet cover botulism.

Fog fever is a respiratory disease seen predominantly in cattle, typically 5-10 days after relocation from a shed or overgrazed pasture onto lush grass. The sudden increase in dietary protein causes the release of substance which is toxic to the lining of the lungs, therefore destroying lung tissue.

Some respiratory signs may be noticed prior to death such as:

- Coughing
- Foaming at the mouth
- Lethargy

Affected cattle rarely have a temperature. **Treatment is limited** although some cases caught early may make a full recovery.

Prevention is better than cure and is achieved via slowly introducing cattle to lush pasture either through strip grazing or allowing to graze for a limited number of hours a day.

Feed related causes

Ruminal acidosis is generally caused by sudden high grain intake e.g. by gaining access to a feed store but can occur with potatoes and other starchy foodstuffs. Rumen drenching with bicarb is the only treatment option, therefore the diet needs to be assessed and a reduced carbohydrate load fed to susceptible animals.

Bloat can also be caused by grain overload or consumption of legumes in pasture - causing frothy bloat. Free gas can be removed by passing a stomach tube or surgically fitting a 'red devil' cannula but this won't work against frothy bloat. Products are available to aid the release of gas trapped within bubbles in these cases but a drench of washing up liquid and cooking oil will often suffice in an emergency. As with prevention of Fog Fever, management of grazing to avoid an overload of carbohydrate is the best way to avoid acidosis or bloat.

Toxins

Toxins such as lead, plants including yew, hemlock, oak and bracken and rat poison can cause sudden death. Lead poisoning may be seen in fields where old car batteries have been left. **There is rarely an effective treatment.**

What should I do if my animals die suddenly?

We advise contacting the vets for all cases of sudden death to establish a diagnosis as all too frequently isolated cases e.g. clostridia are put down to bad luck.

To aid an accurate diagnosis we will need a thorough history.

This will include:

- Any changes in diet or management
- Any pattern in the age
- Breed or sex of animals affected
- Recent stressful events or handling procedures
- Preventative medicine including worming history and vaccination status

Post mortem examination is an invaluable tool in the investigation of sudden death. Carcasses submitted should be as fresh as possible as the changes caused by bacteria following death can obscure changes due to disease.
If housed please get animals off straw beds which will accelerate decomposition.

In some cases the cause of death may be diagnosed visually but often there are no visual signs and follow up samples must be taken and submitted to the lab. Negative results are not always wasted money in these cases as ruling out herd issues may be just as important as confirming the diagnosis in isolated cases.

GAMEBIRDS UPDATE

Max Hardy

The national joint communication from the NGO, Game Farmers Association and British Poultry Veterinary Association in May 2017, regarding Medicated Feeding Stuff prescriptions for gamebirds, has had a strong positive effect within the industry in reducing antibiotic use. RUMA and VMD guidelines and targets must continue to be met to safeguard the future availability of anti-biotic products when gamebird treatment is required.

As we move in to the releasing season over the next few months please consider the following important factors for your shoot:

Pen design - follow these golden rules, money invested in good pens will always be well spent!

- **Size -** Overcrowding of release pens (both pheasants and partridge) must be avoided or it will lead to stress, disease and losses, alongside a greater need for treatments.
- **Environment -** The pen must provide shelter from predators and weather conditions. A mix of 1/3 open ground, 1/3 shrubs and low cover and 1/3 tree cover will normally do this for pheasants. Adequate shelters and perching areas for partridge pens are crucial to allow birds to keep feathers dry. Avoid open water sources in pens at all costs and fill in any vehicle ruts etc. that can hold dirty water.
- **Water and feed -** Please ensure plenty of clean and disinfected feeders and drinkers are available. These should be in the form that the birds are familiar with on the rearing field e.g. manolas/bell-drinkers so check with your supplier first. Any changes in feed (particularly pellets to wheat) should be made slowly over a 4 week period to prevent nutritional stress. Avoid loose feeding in pens - birds can be trained to the whistle using manolas if feed levels are managed carefully.

Timing of release - Birds held in release pens for too long will receive a variety of disease challenges. Timing the delivery of your birds appropriately to fit with surrounding farming operations will help you to get birds out of the pens quickly and safely. This is particularly important for partridge, where the majority should never be held in pens more than 2 to 3 days.

Medication regimes & routes - Please contact Max at the Melton branch well in advance of poult delivery to discuss worming and supportive treatment regimes. Anti-biotic medicated feeds will now only be prescribed in exceptional circumstances once a diagnosis has been confirmed by the vets. Therefore, please ensure your pens have a suitable method of delivering medications in water should a problem arise with your birds. A small medication tank plumbed in alongside the main water source will allow daily mixing of medications should treatment be required. Multivitamins and electrolytes can help birds stay hydrated and maintain strong immune function through stressful conditions. A good worming plan is also essential to control gapes and gut worms.

Communication & History - Talk to your supplier about treatments birds may have received on the rearing field. Frequently problems with hexamita and cocci occur in the few days after release which can lead to disputes. If you are not happy with the quality of delivered birds inform suppliers and contact us for post-mortems at the time. If particular pens always have problems change what you are doing or the same issues will recur.

Farm Veterinary Solutions provide health planning visits to shoots and game farms to help you avoid problems before they start. If you have previously had medicated feeding stuff prescriptions containing antibiotics please speak to the vets over the next few weeks to discuss alternative options for keeping your birds healthy.

MEET YOUR VET

Caroline Hambling

Please introduce yourself: I grew up in West Yorkshire and graduated from The Royal Veterinary College in London last summer. I enjoy working with all animals, large and small. From the age of six, I always knew I wanted to be a vet and this was confirmed through many years working on a dairy farm.

What made you want to work for Farm Veterinary Solutions? The position of a mixed vet and the location really appealed to me and the reputation of the practice

What do you like to do in your spare time? In my spare time I enjoy horse riding and swimming. I also enjoy going out for food and drink in the local area.

Where have you been in the world? South Africa, Thailand, California and lots of Europe. I am hoping in the future to go to Sri Lanka and Bali

Tea or Coffee? To hard, it depends on the time of day

Beer or Wine? Wine - Red

Rugby or Football? Neither

Interesting fact about yourself: My favourite food of all time is... Mince Pies!!! I eat about seven a day around Christmas time!

Spyros Lionis

Please introduce yourself: I was born and grew up in Athens and studied at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, graduating in 2010. Since then and for the first five years following graduation I have been working as a vet in Greece. I moved to the UK in 2015 and worked as a slaughterhouse vet for 12 months in Lancashire. Since then I have worked as TB tester in Cornwall and in Staffordshire.

What made you want to work for Farm Vet Solutions:? Having seen the practice at Uppingham while I was working in slaughterhouses I wanted to join an experienced and friendly team of vets like FVS and am really glad to be a part of it developing my skills.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I enjoy playing folk violin, walking and also swimming during the summer.

Where have you been in the world? Germany, Cyprus, France, Greece and looking forward to exploring new places in the future

Tea or Coffee? Coffee, milk and two sugars thanks!

Beer or Wine? Both, with good friends

Rugby or Football? Football

Interesting fact about yourself: I like to donate blood to people who need it in an emergency or for on-going medical treatment.

MEET YOUR VET
CONTINUED

Hannah Davidson

Please introduce yourself: I grew up in Surrey but spent a lot of my time growing up on my grandparent's sheep and beef farm in Cumbria. I graduated from Liverpool University in 2016 and from there I went to work for a mixed practice in Lincolnshire for 18 months before joining FVS.

What made you want to work for Farm Vet Solutions? Growing up on a farm made me realise I enjoyed working with livestock and when the job arose at FVS this gave me the opportunity to become part of a knowledgeable, forward thinking team.

What do you like to do in your spare time? I have always been a keen hockey player so can normally be found on a Saturday afternoon running around in the rain at the local pitch, followed by a drink or two at the pub.

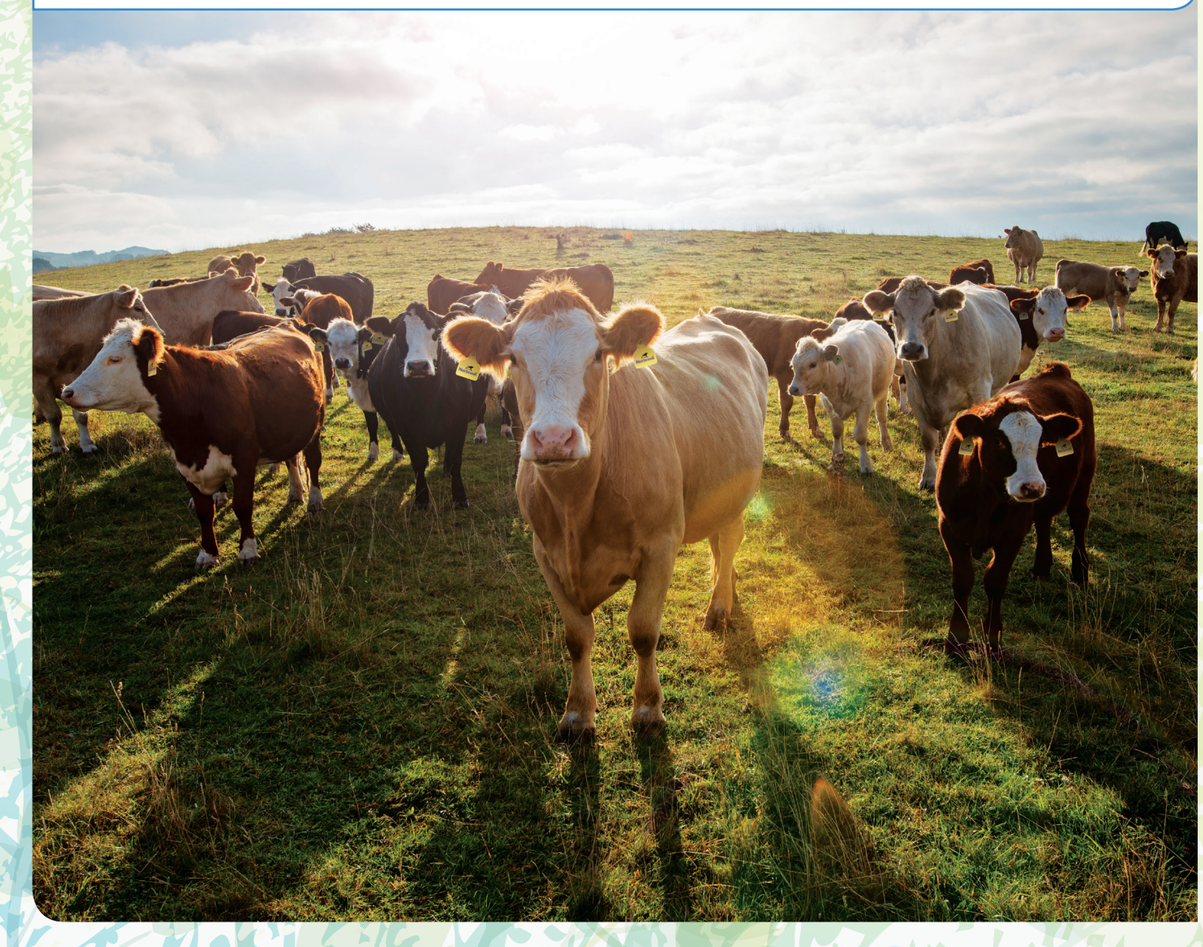
Where have you been in the world? Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and various countries around Europe.

Tea or Coffee? Tea, every time.

Beer or Wine? Cider?

Rugby or Football? Neither - hockey is a much better sport!

Interesting fact about yourself: I worked as a Jillaroo on an Australian property in Queensland, rounding up cattle on horseback and working the cattle through the yards.



SUMMER PRODUCT GUIDE 2018

Product	Details/Uses	Withdrawal	Pack Sizes	Dose
Spotinor®	Deltamethrin spot on for prevention of flies and lice in cattle and treatment of established blowfly strike, ticks and lice in cattle	Cattle meat: 17 days Sheep meat: 35 days	500ml 1L 2.5L	Cattle 10ml Ewes 5ml
Clik Pour-on	Dicyclanil pour-on for prevention of blowfly strike on sheep for up to 16 weeks	Sheep meat: 40 days	0.8L 2.2L 5L	See pack for instructions
Crovect Pour-on	Cypermethrin pour-on for treatment and prevention of blowfly strike in sheep for up to 6 weeks	Sheep meat: 8 days	0.8L 5L	See pack for instructions
Enovex Pour-On for Cattle	Ivermectin pour on for control of adult and larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle	Cattle meat: 28days	2.5L	1ml/10kg Pour-on
Eprizero® 5mg/ml POUR ON SOLUTION for Beef and Dairy Cattle	Eprinomectin pour on for control of roundworms, lungworms and external parasites	Cattle meat: 10days Cattle milk: 0 Hours	2.5L 6L	1ml/10kg pour-on
Dectomax Pour-on	Doramectin pour-on for up to 5 weeks control of adult and larval stage roundworms, mites, lice and hornfly in cattle	Cattle meat: 35days Cattle milk: >60 days	2.5L 5L	1ml/10kg pour-on
LEVACIDE LOW-VOLUME 7.5% ORAL SOLUTION CATTLE AND SHEEP WORM DRENCH	Levamisole (yellow) drench for control of adult and developing roundworms in cattle and sheep	Cattle meat: 14days Sheep meat: 21days	1L 2.5L	1ml/10kg drench
LEVACIDE INJECTION	Levamisole injection for control of adult and developing roundworms in cattle and sheep	Cattle meat: 28days Sheep meat: 15days	500ml	1ml/10kg s/c
Noromectin®	Ivermectin (clear) injection for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice in cattle, sheep and pigs	Cattle meat: 49days Sheep meat: 42days	50ml 300ml 750ml	1ml/50kg sheep/cattle
Noromectin® 0.08% w/v Drench Oral Solution	Ivermectin (clear) drench for control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep	Sheep meat: 14days	2.5L 5L	2.5ml/10kg drench
Parafend 2.265%	Oxfendazole (white) drench for control of roundworms and tapeworms in sheep	Sheep meat: 10days	1L 2.5L 5L 10L	1ml/5kg drench
Zolvix drench for sheep	Monepantel (orange) drench for control of roundworms in sheep	Sheep meat: 7 days	500ml 1L 2.5L	1ml/10kg drench

Farm Veterinary Solutions

A member of XL Vets Farm

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