



Farm Veterinary Solutions

Summer Update

2023

A Message from Max...

"Welcome to the Summer Newsletter 2023. After the wet conditions in April and early May we hope you have all now managed to replenish some much needed forage stocks and your grazing stock are looking well. Fingers crossed for a settled harvest season!

"There have been some significant developments since the last edition that are applicable to many of our clients. Firstly, APHA have announced that compulsory, private post-movement testing will apply to all cattle moving in to the annual testing edge area from higher risk areas from 1st August 2023 onwards. This includes cattle originating from all of the high risk counties, the edge areas under 6 monthly testing and Wales. These animals will need to be tested 60-120 days after arrival on farm. This can prove challenging when small numbers of cattle are mixed in bigger yards, so we would encourage all clients to isolate/batch incoming cattle until tested (something we would always advise for biosecurity anyway). To avoid any animals being missed and APHAs movement restrictions that can follow, please try to ensure you keep accurate, up to date movement records. Please contact Megan, our TB Coordinator for more information.

We are now also underway with Herd Health Plans and disease testing subsidised under DEFRA's Animal Health and Welfare Pathway. Crucially all health plan submissions and disease testing need to be submitted within six months of application. For sheep, late summer/autumn is the ideal time for parasite testing, whereas in cattle, BVD antibody testing requires eligible unvaccinated cattle in the 9-18 month age bracket so please bear this in mind and talk to us about dates before submitting your application."

Date for the Diary

Meeting Topic: Iceberg Diseases in Sheep

When: Monday 34th July @ 7pm

Where: Zoom—in the comfort of your own home/tractor

Max Hardy
BVSc MRCVS

Director of Farm Veterinary Solutions



Vet Tech Update

Discounted Johnes & Neospora Testing - Did you know there is discounted herd monitoring available for your cattle? It is designed for herds that do not require CHECs status. Robyn and Emily have both recently been on farms to collect samples from herds of cattle to test for these increasingly common diseases. Emily blood sampled 150 suckler cows for Johnes during their whole herd TB test and Robyn blood sampled 80 dairy heifers for Neospora. If you have previous history of Johnes or Neospora we recommend testing your full herd to prevent further losses and make the most of the discounted testing!

**minimum testing numbers apply*

btB Testing - Robyn was requested to attend a whole herd TB test to help with the paperwork. We recognise TB testing is very stressful and sometimes an extra pair of hands can help take the pressure off. Robyn took on the role of paperwork whilst vet Freddie carried out the testing which meant farm staff could concentrate on moving cattle safely and efficiently.

Disbudding - Emily, assisted by vet Chris, disbudded a group of 50 calves. In previous years the client has always disbudded the calves themselves, however to save time this year they called us in for help. All of their calves have been disbudded across two sessions meaning the farm staff save hours of time to crack on with other jobs!

Mobility Scoring - As ROMS accredited scorers, Robyn and Emily both have a number of regular clients whom they attend every quarter to score the cattle. Following the visit, a report is produced for clients, identifying problem cows and a comparison on previous sessions.

Robyn Oram (left) K-SQP
Emily Cox (right) L-SQP



Emily disbudding a group of Dairy X bull calves with vet, Chris, assisting and monitoring sedation. (Above)



Cows during mobility scoring sessions. (Above)

Johnes Disease in Cattle



Paratuberculosis, more commonly known as Johnes is a chronic, contagious, bacterial disease affecting ruminants. It is caused by *Mycobacterium avium*, a resistant organism that can survive for long periods in the environment. The disease affects the intestinal tract and its symptoms are characterized by progressive weight loss and chronic severe diarrhoea. However, due to the long period of incubation of the disease, symptoms may not occur until 3-5 years after initial infection. Young animals are most susceptible, and infection usually occurs by ingestion of the bacterium through colostrum or from contaminated faeces of infected animals. Transmission can also occur intro-uterine during pregnancy.

It can sometimes be difficult to differentiate Johnes from other wasting diseases such as parasitic gastroenteritis based on clinical signs alone. Although difficult to confirm the disease in early stages, suspected cases should be investigated and diagnostics carried out. Blood and faecal samples can be taken on farm.

Unfortunately there is no cattle vaccine or treatment for Johnes and control is extremely difficult. Therefore, rapid culling of infected animals is recommended where possible. In addition, biosecurity and good hygiene measures are necessary to minimise risk of faecal contamination, especially in newborn calves.

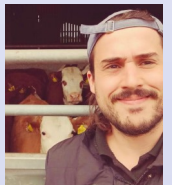
Economic Impact

In infected herds, the annual culling/mortality rate may be 1-5% or more! However losses due to subclinical disease are also substantial. It is estimated that the annual cost of Johnes disease in a 100 cow sucker herd is **£4532!** The cost is based on the presence of disease resulting in 5% less calves being produced per year and another 5% of calves produced each year being less than ideal weights at weaning. The costs also reflect culling and replacement costs of female cows. A US study on a dairy herd found that Johnes infected animals gave on average 4000kg less milk in their lifetime; were 5 times more likely to be lame; were 2 times more likely to develop mastitis/SCC problems; were 1.8 times more likely to develop digestive problems.



If your herd has no history of Johnes it is critical that all measures are taken to prevent introduction of infection as eradication of disease once prevalent proves very costly and may take many years.

David Mendez
MRCVS



Pre Topping Assessment for Rams and Ewes

Getting the ewes and tups ready for topping time is essential to ensure the best possible service and conception rates.

Ewes For the ewes, there are several things to consider in the run up to topping:

Body Condition Score

Ideally, lowland ewes should be at condition score of 3/5 at the time of topping. Increasing the BCS by 0.5 in the three weeks prior to topping can improve lambing percentages by flushing the ewes. The last dietary changes should be made no more than two weeks prior to topping to allow the rumen to adjust to the new diet.

Trace Element Status

Minerals play an important role in fertility. The most common culprits for reduced fertility are copper, iodine and selenium, all of which can be tested for on blood samples. Supplementation is best started at least 6 weeks prior to topping to allow sufficient levels to be reached in the ewe after introduction into the diet.

Lameness

Ewes that are lame at topping will have reduced fertility and are likely to have poorer condition scores. Prompt treatment prior to topping will ensure improved fertility. It may also be worth culling any repeat offenders from the previous year as genetics play a role in general foot health and susceptibility to lameness.

Mastitis

Ewes with bad bags will not be able to rear two or more lambs during the next lambing season. Culling these animals from the flock prior to topping will reduce potential future losses and work.

Rams All rams should have a pre-topping MOT too. The main focus in a ram MOT is the 5 T's.

Tone—Aim for a BCS of between 3.5-4.0

Teeth—Check for under/overshot jaw, condition of incisors and any facial or neck swellings.

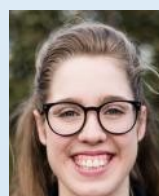
Testicles—Check for firmness, presence of any lumps/bumps, even size for each testicle and movability in the scrotum.

Toes—Check for general mobility and feet for any infection or overgrown horn.

Treat—Ensure vaccinations are up to date. Does he need worming or any concerns that need to be investigated further?

Any obvious issues found during this check will have an effect on their fertility and may take time to be resolved so early preparation is key. Ill health that requires treatment can affect a rams fertility for up to six weeks after the issues has been identified, so prompt action is essential.

It is still recommended to complete a full fertility assessment prior to topping to ensure that sperm production and quality is sufficient for the breeding season ahead. We offer ram fertility assessments on farm—a worthy investment for future lamb sales!



Gemma Barnes
BVM BVS MRCVS





Dairy Cow Lameness

What's the cost?



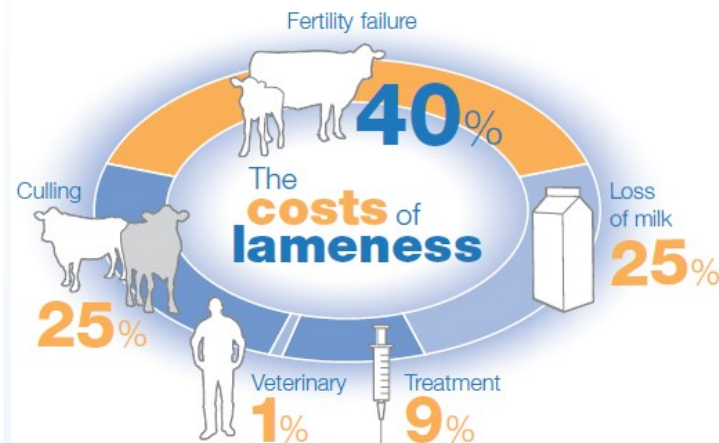
What do you think is the biggest cause of economic loss when a dairy cow goes lame? Research shows that many farmers will not know the correct answer. If you are interested in enhancing your lameness management strategy or looking to develop a long-term plan that strips out unnecessary cost on your dairy farm, then read on...

Dairy cow lameness—how much does it cost?

Have you ever hesitated to call us out to treat lameness in your dairy herd because you were worried about the cost of treatment? If so, we have some good news. Studies have shown that the cost of treatment accounts for just 10% of the economic losses incurred by a lame cow and veterinary visits for only 1%. So, if cost is holding you back, please do not hesitate.... Contact us now to arrange a farm visit.

What farmers say about the cost of lameness in dairy cows...

When asked to attribute costs incurred because of lame dairy cows, most farmers told researchers that they perceived the biggest costs to be caused by a loss of milk production and the associated costs of treating lameness. Interestingly, these



two reasons were mentioned almost twice as often as the next most popular answer. This certainly makes us realise why you might worry about seeking veterinary help to treat lameness. But when the lameness data was analysed, researchers came up with some pretty surprising findings.

Contrary to farmer perceptions, the biggest source of economic loss associated with lame dairy cattle is infertility—including 3.5 times rise in the number of cows showing delayed cyclicity, leading to an increase in the calving to conception interval of up to 50 days.

Infertility accounts for almost 40% of the economic losses associated with lameness. Other significant contributors to costs included increased cull rates and reduced milk yield, accounting for around 25% each—with increased farm labour, vet costs and treatment together accounting for the remainder.

The above chart shows the causes of financial loss due to dairy cow lameness.

This is not what most of us expected! So here is how lameness affects fertility causing a significant dent in your bottom line...

How dairy cow lameness causes a fall in fertility

It is easy to understand how lameness can cause a drop in milk production—by 270-850kg per lactation. Discomfort and pain can quickly cause a change in feeding patterns, including an impaired ability to compete for space at the food and water troughs and a reduced desire to stand for long periods—preventing optimal food intake.

But why should fertility be affected by lameness? There are several factors that need to be considered.

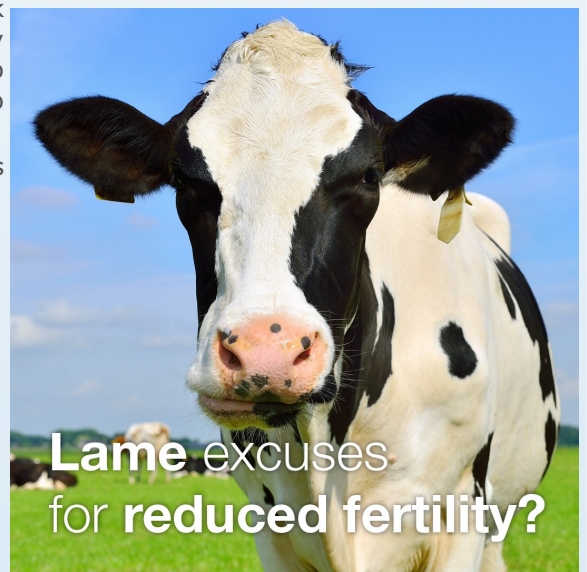
- Reduced feed intake, resulting in negative energy balance. The loss of weight and condition can start even before lameness is observed.
- Behaviour—it can be more difficult to identify signs of oestrus in lame cows and these may be less obvious or apparent for shorter periods.
- Stress can have an adverse affect on ovarian function and follicular development with a potential delay in cycling or the timing of ovulation.
- Inflammation can be associated with an increase in the service to conception interval. This may be caused by an increased production of prostaglandin—a chemical messenger that is important in regulating the cow's oestrus cycle. Chronic inflammatory changes in the tissues of the foot can take some time to treat, so these effects can be longer lasting.

All of these factors combine, meaning the effects of lameness on fertility can be quite marked:

- Lame cows are 9 times more likely to need an increased number of services compared to the herd average.
- There is a 3.5 times increased risk of delayed cyclicity.
- The calving to conception interval can increase by up to 50 days.

Is there something more you could be doing to manage lameness in your herd?

There is no gain with pain in dairy farming and there is more you could be doing to manage the lameness in your herd. Regular mobility scoring is the best way to detect early cases of lameness, leading to rapid and effective treatment. #wavegoodbyetopain



If you wish to discuss any of the topics raised in the Summer Update, please call the office on 01664 567481 (option 2) to speak to one of our Receptionists, SQPs, Vet Techs or Vets.

VPS Products– Summer Deals 2023

| PRODUCT | USE | ADMINISTRATION | WITHDRAWAL | PRICE (ex VAT) |
|--|--|--|---|----------------------------------|
|  Enovex Pour-on | Ivermectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle. | Pour-on 1ml per 10kg | Cattle Meat—28 days Milk— >60 days | 2.5L—£29 |
|  Eprizero Pour-on | Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mange mites and lice in dairy cattle. | Pour-on 1ml per 10kg | Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours | 2.5L—£135 5L—£205 |
|  Tauradour Pour-on | Doramectin pour-on for the control of roundworms, mange mites and lice in cattle for up to 5 weeks. | Pour-on 1ml per 10kg | Cattle Meat—35 days Milk—do not use | 2.5L—£115 5L—£190 |
|  Chanaverm 7.5% | Levamisole (yellow) drench for control of roundworms in sheep and cattle. | Oral drench 1ml per 10kg | Cattle Meat—20 days Sheep Meat—20 days | 5L—£85 |
|  Endospec SC 2.5% | Albendazole (white) drench for the control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep. | Oral drench See pack info | Sheep Meat—4 days | 2.5L—£35 10L—£70 |
|  Dectomax Injection | Doramectin injection for the control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle and sheep. | Cattle 1ml per 50kg Subcutaneous inj Sheep 1ml per 33kg Intramuscular inj | Cattle Meat—70 days Sheep Meat—70 days | 200ml—£65 |
|  Noromectin Drench | Ivermectin (clear) drench for the control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep. | Oral drench 2.5ml per 10kg | Sheep Meat—14 days | 1L—£16 2.5L—£32 5L—£49 |
|  Ectofly | Cypermethrin solution for the treatment and prevention of blowfly strike, ticks and lice in sheep. | Topical Administration See Pack Info | Sheep Meat—8 days | 2.5L—£50 5L—£84 |
|  Spotinor | Deltamethrin spot-on for the prevention of flies in cattle and treatment of established blowfly strike and ticks in sheep. | Cattle—10ml Sheep—5ml See Pack Info | Cattle Meat—17 days Sheep Meat—35 days | 500ml—£40 1L—£65 2.5L—£120 |

To place an order or for more information, please call 01664 567481

A member of



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