



Farm Veterinary Solutions

Spring Update

2021

Welcome to the Spring edition,

As I write the foreword, it occurs to me that I must be due a turn in fortunes as apparently bad things happen in threes! My trusty 'Landy' that has been with me since the early days of Farm Veterinary Solutions was just short of 300,000 miles on the clock when there was an ominous knocking coming from her original engine. Alas, the mechanic diagnosed a bottom end bearing gone and filings in the oil filter, a replacement engine was the cure only for a phone call a few nights later from a friend at 3:30am informing me my cows were on the road. As I was getting ready to jump in the Landy the second of the bad things was very clear as I had no doors! Bloody thieves had cut the cattle gate lock and scarpered off with all my doors! It took two flights in the helicopter to find the cattle at first light and no sign of any doors! Finally the last misfortune occurred today as resplendent with second hand white doors I reversed the Landy into a stationary muck spreader and rearranged the back canopy shunting it forward into an awkward lopsided position. The bloke who straightened her with a tractor must be wondering whatever next!



We are very pleased to announce that our farm manager Nick Watson is now one of the first in the country to be qualified as an ATT (Approved Tuberculin Tester). This means that although Nick is not a vet, he can now also TB test for us. This adds to the skills Nick already has as an artificial inseminator and blood tester as well as managing the farm department! Well done Nick! We also have another ATT in the pipeline, Hannah Nutter who is going through training at present.

With rain finally due, hopefully followed by warm weather with a flush of grass, keep an eye out for magnesium staggers in your cattle and nematodirus and cocci in the lambs.



Mike Thorne
BVSc CertCHP MRCVS
Director of Farm Veterinary Solutions

Nematodirus in Lambs

Nematodirus battus is a parasite of the gut that can cause severe disease and losses in young lambs.

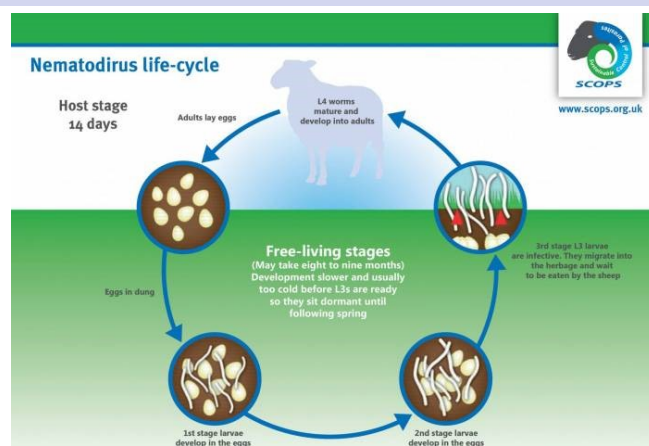
Larvae of nematodirus hatch from eggs directly onto pasture this means infection and damage caused when ingested occurs much quicker than other gut worms. Weather conditions are critical—a cold snap followed by a longer period of milder weather (10°C+) can lead to mass hatching on pasture.

Clinical Signs:

- Sudden onset of profuse watery scours. (can be dark coloured)
- Drop in growth rates.
- Dehydration and extreme thirst.
- Sudden death with a short history of diarrhoea in lambs 6-12 weeks old is typical.

Treatment

Usually if *Nematodirus* is found or suspected, immediate treatment of all lambs on affected pasture is recommended. The choice of wormer depends on individual farms worming regimes.



Prevention

Rotate your lamb grazing pastures each year if possible. The biggest risk is mass egg hatching on grass grazed by lambs the previous year.

Follow your worming protocol as discussed with your vet or one of our SQP's. It is a good idea to monitor the SCOPS forecast to see the risk levels in the area.

Artificial Insemination Tips for Spring



The spring AI season is fast upon us. With most spring calving dairy herds well into pre-breeding heat detection and some farms starting their service period, it is important to remember that accuracy and consistency is always the key to successful DIY AI. Take time to ensure your kit is clean and ready to use—multiple guns, thermometer, sheaths, thawing flask, scissors, gloves, tweezers and plenty of paper towel and lube! It is recommended to carry out frozen semen analysis pre-breeding to ensure straws are of optimum quality. We will be running a second spring semen analysis taking place in early May—to book in please get in touch with Nick in the farm office. It may be beneficial for you to make use of our refresher AI course particularly if your AI team has a mixed range of experience. The course covers correct semen handling and preparation alongside gun placement and technique. This is followed by an insemination check test to ensure accurate distribution. For assistance with the supply of equipment or technical support please call the practice.

AI Top Tips!

- Check the temperature of thawing flasks daily with a manual thermometer (it should be between 35-37°C—don't trust what the thawing flask tells you!) Replace with clean water every few days throughout the busy service period.
- Lift AI flask goblets for no more than 10 seconds at a time. Always keep the top of the straws below the rim of the flask.
- Always use tweezers when handling frozen and thawed semen.
- Thaw straws for the recommended time as advised by your semen supplier. Always dry with a clean paper towel and keep your AI guns warm before loading to avoid any cold shock damage to cells.
- Load guns with minimal contact between straw and hands—wipe scissors clean after every use.
- Only use sheaths directly from the packet to ensure sterility and only load what can be put into cows within 10 mins (sexed 5 min).
- Use a clean glove, lube and paper towel with **every** cow.



Farm Practice Manager and AI Technician—Nick on an AI visit.

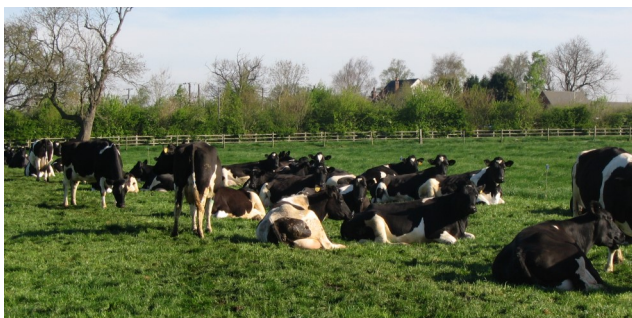
Grass Staggers

Magnesium Deficiency

Magnesium is a critical element that is poorly stored by cattle. A deficiency in magnesium can lead to sudden and often fatal side effects. Spring is the major risk period due to high grass protein and potassium levels which both reduce the absorption of magnesium—this combined with low magnesium uptake can be disastrous for cattle.

It is vital to ensure sources of magnesium are readily available at a minimum of 30g per cow per day. This can be as part of a compound feed, as supplementary minerals or a bolus.

Please call the farm office to discuss options for magnesium supplementation this spring.



Orf in Lambs

Orf is a highly infectious viral disease of sheep and goats.

In lambs, Orf most commonly presents as lesions and pustules around the mouth, nose and teeth. The virus can also spread to the teats of ewes often predisposing mastitis. Orf is a zoonosis which means it can infect humans, therefore gloves should always be worn and precautions taken when infected animals are handled.

Treatment

As Orf is a virus, it cannot be controlled by antibiotic injections, however antibiotic spray can help to control secondary bacterial infections alongside anti-inflammatories.

- Lambs may need bottle feeding if ewes develop lesions on their teats.
- Bottles and teats should be disinfected between uses.

Prevention

The virus can remain infective in dry scabs for many months in buildings. Thorough disinfecting of lambing accommodation is essential to reduce the spread of disease. Infected animals should be separated from the group.

Vaccination

A live virus vaccination can be given to lambs from 24 hours of age.

Onset of immunity: 4-8 weeks

Duration of immunity: 1 year

**Vaccine should not be used in flocks with no history of Orf.*



Lesions caused by Orf.

A member of



Emergency Contact: 01664 567481

Farm Veterinary Solutions

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Farm Office: 01664 567481 option 2

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Farm Veterinary Solutions

VPS Products– Spring Deals 2021

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—£28
 Eprizero Pour-on	Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mites and sucking lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours	2.5L—£120 5L—£190
 Endospec SC 2.5%	Albendazole (white) drench for the control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days Cattle Meat—14 days Milk—60 hours	2.5L—£35 10L—£70
 Taurador 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	1L—£75 2.5L—£110 5L—£190
 Noromectin 0.08% Drench	Ivermectin (clear) drench for control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep.	Oral drench 1ml per 10kg	Sheep Meat—14 days Milk—do not use	1L—£15 2.5L—£31 5L—£48
 Spotinor	Deltamethrin spot on for prevention of flies in cattle and treatment of established blowfly strike and ticks in sheep.	Spot on Cattle—10ml Ewes 5ml See pack info.	Sheep Meat—35 days Cattle Meat—17 days Milk—0 hours	500ml—£40 1L—£65 2.5L—£120
 Ectofly	Cypermethrin solution for the treatment and prevention of blowfly strike, ticks and lice in sheep.	Pour-on See pack info.	Sheep Meat—8 days	2.5L—£42 5L—£61 4x5L+gun—£230
 Bravoxin 10	10 in 1 clostridial vaccine for cattle and sheep. Primary course 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart, annual boosters required.	Subcutaneous inj Cattle—2ml Sheep—1ml	0 days	50ml—£21 100ml—£29
 Ovivac P	Clostridial and pasteurella vaccine for store/fattening lambs (>3 weeks of age). Primary course 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart, annual boosters required.	Subcutaneous inj Sheep—2ml	0 days	100ml—£33 500ml—£140

Please call 01664 567481 for more details or to place an order.