



# Farm Veterinary Solutions

Autumn Update

2021

## Welcome to the Autumn edition...

"We have all had a challenging year throughout the restrictions and I'm sure we are all now looking forward to life returning to normal. Our farmers and vets have been lucky - compared to many industries - that work has been relatively 'business as usual' over the last 18 months, but we all now look forward to catching up with friends. Our diary challenges have been made far worse by Covid and isolation requirements and I would like to thank both the office team and our clients for their patience when we have had to move visits and TB tests at short notice. On the plus side, our office team have all enjoyed meeting the many clients that they have previously spoken to over the phone so many times, when taking out medicines and orders.

"With a mix of seasonal articles and offers included in the autumn edition of the FVS newsletter there will be some interest for everyone. If you have any questions or would like any further advice for the housing and tugging period please pick up the phone and speak to one of our vets or SQPs. (Congratulations to both Emily and Vicky for passing their exams this summer to become SQP's!) We are looking forward to the return of face to face client meetings so keep an eye out for upcoming FVS events over the winter months."



**Max Hardy**  
BVSc MRCVS  
Director of Farm Veterinary Solutions



## Mike's Update from Africa

"Instead of being in Namibia working with the Namibian Lion Trust—which I told many of you before I left—I find myself in Zambia with Game Ranger International, helping to train their staff about baby elephant rescues and rehabilitation. These are orphan elephants who's mothers have been shot by poachers. They are flown to the centre, often severely dehydrated and collapsed in need of fluids, glucose and warmth... Much like a new born lamb found lost and cold in the spring. I have been teaching basics such as finding pulses and rigging up drips. We have four little ele's at the moment, when they are older they will move to a game reserve and join the older elephants in preparation for a soft release back in to the wild."

**Mike Thorne**  
BVSc CertCHP MRCVS  
Director of Farm Veterinary Solutions



## Worming Farm Dogs (and cats if you can!)

Did you know that dogs can play host to a number of parasites, such as neospora and tapeworm, which can cause health implications to your livestock? Below are some recommendations on how best to prevent these parasites from becoming a problem:

- All dogs on farm, working or pets should be wormed every 4-6 weeks using a broad spectrum wormer.
- Ask that any visiting dogs (e.g. hunts/shoots) be wormed prior to entry on the farm.
- Pick up dog faeces.
- Clean up and secure all fallen stock carcasses.
- Keep kennels clean.
- Routinely treat for fleas and ticks.
- Display signs on footpaths i.e. 'clean up after your dog'.



Farm cats can also spread disease including roundworm and toxoplasmosis (affecting sheep).

**Kirstie Griffiths K-SQP & Robyn Oram K-SQP**

# Transition Cow Management



The transition period is an extremely challenging time period for both cows and producers which begins during late gestation and continues until early lactation. Closely monitoring cows during this time is crucial to recognise signs of trouble before it becomes a problem. Ultimately, the most important goal of transition cow management is to reduce the time spent in negative energy balance and avoid the health challenges the transition period brings.

One way of achieving successful management of transition cows is through supplementation. Norbrook have launched a line of supportive therapies for the management of transition cows, which aid the prevention of Ketosis and Milk fever.

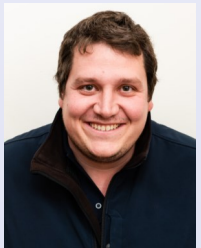
Ketosis occurs when cows are in a severe state of negative energy balance. Characteristics of ketosis are inappetance, lethargy, a drop in milk yield, a drop in body condition and occasionally neurological signs. SOFT cows are most at risk of ketosis - cows that are sick, fat, old or carrying twins - and would generally benefit from intervention to maintain health and productivity. The new Ketonor bolus from Norbrook is a complementary feed to reduce the risk of ketosis by giving two boli shortly after calving. We have tried and tested Ketonor and so far have had excellent responses from patients and clients.



After calving, cows have a sudden demand for calcium in their milk and experience a temporary blood calcium deficiency. All cows will experience some degree of hypocalcaemia and most will adapt quickly to the increased demand. Milk fever occurs when hypocalcaemia is severe and clinical signs develop. Generally cows progressively decline in the days following calving, starting with inappetance, a drop in milk yield, muscle tremors and weakness leading to the inability to stand. The Calcitrace bolus from Norbrook is a mineral feed given at the time of calving to reduce the risk of milk fever or as supportive therapy after calcium infusion. It is also available in a liquid form. Calcitrace has also been tried and tested by us and is also proving to be successful.

The transition period allows many opportunities to minimise health challenges by changes to feeding or providing supplementation both before calving and post-calving.

*Chris administering a Ketonor bolus to a sick dairy cow a few days post calving. (Left)*



**Chris Watton**  
BVetMed BSc CertAVP MRCVS

## Meet the Team - The Newest Additions to FVS...

### Gemma

#### Introduce yourself:

"Born and bred on the Hampshire-Berkshire border where I developed a love of working on farms before joining university. The outdoor lifestyle and the passionate, knowledgeable people caring for farms, alongside my love for quality British produce is something that has stayed with me during my studies at Nottingham University."

#### What do you do in your spare time?

"On my weekends off you're most likely to find me out in the nearest hills climbing, hiking and camping. Or maybe turning some local produce into dinner, dessert or lunch."

#### Where in the world have you been?

"Barbados, California (San Francisco, LA, San Diego), Spain, Maderia, Italy, Germany and Portugal."

#### Interesting fact about yourself:

"I lived in Dubai for 2 years!"



**Gemma Barnes**  
BVM BVS MRCVS

### Sam

#### Introduce yourself:

"I grew up in South East London and recently graduated from the University of Cambridge. During the 6 year degree I found a passion for all things farm animal! I especially loved the relationships I was able to build with farmers. I am looking forward to meeting and working with the FVS clients and farmers in the area."

#### What do you do in your spare time?

"In my spare time I enjoy watching or getting involved in anything from rugby and cricket, to climbing and squash. You may also find me travelling to Welford Road to watch some rugby on the weekends."

#### Where have you been in the world?

"France, Austria, Italy, Croatia, Slovenia, Switzerland and more but never outside of Europe."

#### Interesting fact about yourself:

"I have a phobia/general repulsion of newspapers!"



**Sam Hailes**  
BA VetMB MRCVS



# Mycoplasma Bovis



## Common Signs of Infection:

### Adults

- \* Nasal discharge
- \* Milk suppression
- \* High mortality rates
- \* Chronic mastitis
- \* Swollen joints/legs

### Calves

- \* Droopy ears
- \* Slight head tilt
- \* Cough
- \* Nasal discharge
- \* Sinusitis

Mycoplasmas are very small bacteria which have several defence mechanisms. These defences make for complex methods of treatment and prevention. The bacteria causes immunosuppression in both calves and adult cattle, predisposing animals to other diseases and infections. Where herds have concurrent problems, mycoplasma outbreaks can be very severe.

- Lack of cell wall—making certain widely used antibiotics ineffective.
- Can change the surface proteins—meaning it can evade the cow's immune response.
- Ability to produce a biofilm shell—protects from both the immune system and antibiotics.
- Only grows in cells and feeds of an animal's DNA
- Produces hydrogen peroxide—exceptionally toxic and causes cells to bleed to death.

## Diagnosis

Culture, in some cases can take up to 21 days.

Serology testing can provide evidence of infection.

PCR/DGGE can detect and identify mycoplasma species.

## Transmission

The main route of transmission is via nose to nose contact, however milk can also be a source of infection to calves. Mycoplasma can be carried by asymptomatic animals and therefore some herds may not know they have it. Although, when animals are stressed it can cause shedding of the bacteria and symptoms to appear. The post calving period seems to be a higher risk time for shedding.

## Prevention

The largest risk of mycoplasma infection is considered to be from buying in livestock—testing pre-sale is advisable. A closed herd policy is the best method to minimise risk.

### Myc-B ONE DOSE™ Vaccine

#### Cost

#### When to vaccinate?

A vaccine imported from the US. It has been in use for less than a year.

Cost is very similar to calf pneumonia vaccines.

Beef herds should vaccinate six to eight weeks before calving so antibodies are present in colostrum to protect newborn calves. Calves should then be vaccinated at four to five weeks old. Purchased calves can be vaccinated soon after arrival.

**Jorge Robayna**  
MRCVS



# Fertility Testing Rams



Sperm viewed under a microscope. (Above)

The time, money and effort spent on synchronisation programmes and teaser tups is pointless if your breeding rams are sub-fertile, or much worse, infertile. Whether they are purchased or home-bred, examine all rams at least two months prior to joining the flock. This gives you and the rams enough time to address and overcome any problems that you may find. Health issues (or any stress or fever) can affect sperm productions for up to six weeks.

**Testicles:** Size does matter! Increased testicular circumference relates directly to increased fertility. A minimum of 35cm circumference around the widest part of the scrotum is necessary, however there are variations among breed and age. Palpate both testes, they should be firm with no lumps, swellings or heat. Tip the ram and check his penis and prepuce for any signs of injury or infection. These steps are routinely carried out by our vets during ram fertility visits alongside semen analysis.

**Condition:** Topping is tough work! We recommend that rams joining the flock have a body condition score of 4, as they will lose a lot of condition during the breeding period.

**Feet:** Lameness has a huge impact on how well a ram will work. Check all four feet for any disease. If the problem is relatively new and treatable then it is best to get it right sooner rather than later. If a ram is persistently lame, we would advise to no longer breed from him. Conditions such as footrot, CODD, or an abscess can raise the rams body temperature which can affect sperm production for up to six weeks. Always include anti-inflammatories in treatment protocols as these will dramatically help reduce fevers.

To be certain of your ram's fertility, it is best to undertake a full fertility and semen assessment with one of our vets. This includes a thorough examination of the ram, covering all points mentioned above and providing there are no problems a semen sample is taken. The sample is assessed under a microscope for quantity, quality, activity and sperm structure.













As the day's begin to shorten, a rams fertility will increase so timing

is important. \*\*\*Electrical point required for ram fertility visits\*\*\*



If you wish to discuss any of the topics raised in the Autumn Update, please call the office on 01664 567481 option 2 to speak to one of our receptionists, SQPs or vets.

# VPS Products– Autumn Deals 2021

PRODUCT	USE	ADMINISTRATION	WITHDRAWAL	PRICE (ex VAT)
 <b>Enovex Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin pour on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mites and lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—28 days Milk— >60 days	2.5L—£28
 <b>Eprizero Pour-on</b>	Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mites and lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours	2.5L—£120 5L—£190
 <b>Endospec SC 2.5%</b>	Albendazole (white) drench for control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days	2.5L—£35 10L—£70
 <b>Taurador Pour-on</b>	<i>Dectomax equivalent—</i> Doramectin pour on for control of roundworms, 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
 <b>Noromectin 0.08% Drench</b>	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
 <b>Noromectin 1% Injection</b>	Ivermectin injection for the control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle, sheep and pigs.	SC Injection Cattle: 1ml/50kg Sheep: 1ml/50kg Pigs: 1ml/33kg	Cattle Meat—49days Sheep Meat—42 days	50ml—£14 500ml—£35
 <b>Dectomax Injection</b>	Doramectin injection for the control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle and sheep.	SC Injection Cattle: 1ml/50kg Sheep: 1ml/33kg	Sheep and Cattle Meat—70days Milk—do not use	200ml—£60
 <b>Bimectin Plus Injection</b>	Ivermectin and Clorsulon injection for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Injection 1ml/50kg	Cattle Meat—66 days Milk—do not use (>60 days)	250ml—£56 500ml—£90
 <b>Closamectin Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin and Closantel pour-on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml/10kg	Cattle Meat—56 days Milk—do not use (>150days)	2.5L—£210 4L—£305
 <b>Endofluke 10%</b>	Triclabendazole drench for the control of early immature to adult liver fluke in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench 1ml/10kg	Cattle Meat—56 days Sheep Meat—56 days	2.5L—£56 5L—£95
 <b>Solantel</b>	Closantel drench for control of late immature and adult liver fluke and haemonchus in sheep.	Oral drench 1ml/5kg	Sheep Meat—42 days	2.5L—£64 5L—£90
 <b>Footvax</b>	Dichelobacter vaccine for prevention of footrot in sheep.	SC Injection 1ml	Sheep Meat—0 days	50ml—£65 250ml—£250

*To place an order of for more information please call 01664 567481*