

Farm Newsletter – October 2010

FLUID THERAPY IN CATTLE

Many of you have seen us use the rumen pumps and indeed a lot of you have bought pumps and are using them routinely. The pumps and the solutions have revolutionised treatment of sick cows. We are hugely impressed with results and cannot recommend their use enough. Below is a handy table to help you choose the correct powder. Always use warm water. If in doubt pump your cow and treat her frequently. Newly calved heifers are often neglected. They may have been off their food and water for a day or so before calving and indeed may have had a protracted calving and may be feeling exhausted.

HOUSING

The weather has changed and housing is imminent. Treat for external and internal parasites including lung worm and vaccinate for pneumonia. A few of you get flare ups of IBR in adults which can cause abortion, infertility and pneumonia. It can manifest as any of :- a cough, runny noses, runny eyes, cows off colour, reduced milk yields, abortions, resorptions, very rapid neonatal death and of course pneumonia. Levels of IBR within a herd can be established via bulk milk and blood tests and there is a vaccine. Some of you will give a booster of the vaccine before housing.

	Selekt Antacid	Selekt Fresh Cow	Selekt Glycerol Plus	Selekt Off Feed	Selekt Restore
Acute rumen acidosis	✓				
Following Caesarean section			✓		✓
Dehydration or endotoxaemic shock caused by mastitis, metritis, vagus indigestion, traumatic reticulitis, hydrops, etc.					✓
Inappetance in early lactation				✓	
Reduction in the risk of ketosis		✓			
Treatment of ketosis			✓		✓ If dehydrated
Following correction of left displacement of the abomasum				✓	✓
Reduction in the risk of left displacement of the abomasum		✓			
Reduction in the risk of milk fever / hypocalcaemia		✓			

FARMERS' MEETING AT THE MILLSTONES

On Wednesday the 20th October 2010 at 7pm John Atkinson, a vet from Intervet/Schering-Plough, will give a talk on Respiratory Disease in Cattle. Food is provided. Please ring Gillian at the



surgery with numbers or RSVP on our Facebook page.

GUN DOGS

Last year a local shoot experienced an outbreak of Kennel Cough. This is a highly infectious laryngitis and tracheitis of dogs with a viral and bacterial component. Affected dogs have a loud, rasping cough, they can be off colour and their work is invariably compromised. Over the years boarding kennels, hunts and dog shows have been highly inconvenienced by outbreaks and recently local professional dog walkers and now shoots have been hit! Affected dogs can usually be treated effectively but treatment can be prolonged and expensive. Affected dogs are highly contagious and can shed the disease for up to two weeks after they have stopped coughing. There is a vaccine and we strongly recommend using it. Many people now ask for it routinely as part of their dog's annual booster and reputable boarding kennels and professional dog walkers insist upon it. It is not expensive! Kennel cough is very common these days.

INTERCEPT

Some of you have been using this regime routinely with good results. It particularly seems to be a good idea for those cows that never show a heat – even for the bull.

The Intercept regime for breeding dairy cows without the need for specific heat detection is

- Day 0 Receptal 2.5 ml Given by farmer
- Day 7 Prostaglandin Given by vet (at routine visit)
- Day 9 Receptal 2.5 ml Given by farmer (54-56 hours after the prostaglandin or at AI if heat occurs sooner)

- Day 10 AI 72 hours after the prostaglandin or at observed heat if sooner.

You can't use this regime in first breeding heifers.

MAEDI VISNA

Don't forget about this wasting disease of sheep especially if you purchase breeding replacements of unknown MvV status. Clinical signs such as weight loss despite normal appetite, chronic pneumonia, unusual neurological signs and unexplained failure to thrive in lambs before weaning may be observed.

Diagnosis consists of blood tests from a selection of affected individuals, post mortem examinations of a sample of cull ewes and investigation of unexplained sudden deaths in adult sheep using post mortem examinations. One farm suffering from it only realised it had the disease after an investigation into in lamb ewes that were losing weight was undertaken and the diagnosis was made. Blood samples were tested for Johne's disease and MvV. MvV was found in 70% of the sheep.

EBLEX

We routinely get excellent publications from this organisation. The BRP Beef and Sheep Parasite Control Guide is well worth having handy and in a very few pages contains a huge amount of useful information. The Beef Diseases Directory is very colourful and has a lot of useful details on prevention and control whether it is on lameness, hypomagnesaemia, septicaemia or Liver Fluke to name just a few. There is a 'Parking Disc' style calculator for 'Finishing cattle performance targets' which you can use to assess your farm's performance. All these booklets plus more will be on view at the Millstones Meeting.

