



(01423) 862121
Farm Animal Newsletter
March 2005

Reminders About Mastitis.

Targets :

- No more than one case per week per 100 cows.
- Less than 5% of cows should move from <200,000 SCC to above during a lactation.
- Less than 5% of cows should move from <200,000 SCC to above during the dry period.
- Less than 1 in 12 cows should get mastitis in the first month after calving.

The amount of milk discarded per 100 cows.

- 8 calvings per month, discarding milk for 4 days after calving at 20l per day = 640 litres
- 4 cases of mastitis per month with 3 days of treatment plus another 3 days milk discard = 6 x 25 litres x 4 = 600 litres
- Therefore, total monthly discard is $640+600 = 1240$ litres
- Total production (100 cows at 25 litres for 30 days) = 75000
- So - % milk discard should be $1240/75000 = 1.6\%$ or 40 litres/day for a 100 cow herd.

Teat seals

20 - 50% of cows fail to form a teat seal by 40 days after drying off. Cows with a poor teat seal are much more likely to pick up new infections during the dry period which means more mastitis in the next lactation. In addition to using Orbeseal

- Avoid using a single calving paddock in late summer – this becomes a source of infection. Rotate cows around three separate paddocks, 2 weeks in each, so

that there is a four week rest period for each paddock.

- Avoid excessive soiling around water troughs and feeders.
- Straw yards need 10 m² of lying area per cow, using 10 kg/cow/day of straw and should be cleaned out every three weeks. Straw must be stored indoors.

Transition cow diet minerals:

The transition cow diet should be fed in the last THREE weeks of the dry period. Vitamin E and Selenium have been shown to help prevent mastitis in early lactation. The new recommended levels are:-

Vitamin E – 12,000 IU per cow per day

Selenium – 4 mg per cow per day (or the density of Se in the diet should be 0.3 ppm or 0.3 mg/kg).

Digital Dermatitis Control.

This is a bacterial infection of the skin, made much worse by exposure to slurry. There is no need for anyone to have more than a few odd cases of DD. Like any infectious disease, the main control measures are regular disinfection and environmental hygiene. When you think of DD, compare it with mastitis – for example

- Keep feet as clean as possible i.e. regular scraping and avoid pools of slurry
- Keep passageways clean. Using enough bedding so that some falls out onto the edge of the slurry passage is ideal. This both dries up the passage and cushions the cows' feet when they are standing in the passage.
- Regular foot disinfection (like post milking teat dipping) is vital. **Use 5% formalin once daily for 5 days per**

- week.** Change the footbath daily or after 200 – 250 cows.
- An open DD sore acts as a reservoir of infection to other cows (again like mastitis) so needs prompt treatment.
- Most cases of DD occur in the first few months of lactation (- low grade infections carried by the dry cows proliferate during the immune suppression associated with calving). **Control these low grade infections by putting dry cows through the footbath two days per week.**

Receptal and Repeat Bullers

Receptal is a strange drug in that it has different effects on the cow depending on the stage of her cycle.

At service 2.5 ml of Receptal ensures ovulation and has been shown to produce a 5% improvement in conception rates

At 12 days post service 2.5 ml Receptal produces a ‘stronger’ corpus luteum. This allows the embryo to grow a bit bigger. The embryo therefore produces a bigger ‘signal’ and hence is more likely to be ‘recognised’ by the dam and not flushed out. This increases conception rates by 10%.

So a 15% improvement in conception rates could be achieved using two injections. For some of you this may be very worth while especially when the national conception rate is at an all time low!

Bad News for Users of Streptopen Milking Cow.

The marketing authorisation for this intramammary has been withdrawn.

Schering Plough say that they were asked to submit new residue studies for the product which would have cost about £400K. They say the product is no longer financially viable.

There are still some stocks available at some wholesalers but on a ‘first come first served’ basis.

One wonders if there will be any drugs left for our poor farm animals in the not too distant future. Perhaps we will resort to pre - war ‘James Herriot remedies’.

Leptospirosis Vaccination

It’s that time of year again. Spring is a major risk period for the transmission of leptospirosis as cows are on lush grazing and excreting urine. As herds get larger the risk of a major breakdown resulting in an abortion storm increases. The good news is **that we are able to offer the vaccine at the same price as last year.** The offer price is available as long as you pay at the time of collection. Please ring Gillian with your order and don’t forget that animals coming up for their first grazing season need two doses 4 weeks apart prior to turnout.

Lambing

Some products you need to keep in stock:

Calcium and Colate – for the treatment of recumbent ewes and suspect cases of twin lamb disease.

Oxytocin – always inject 2 mls after an assisted lambing.

Utrapen LA or Alamycin LA – following assisted lambings and for mastitis.

Norodine tablets – for the prevention and treatment of Watery Mouth and scouring.

If you have had Pasteurella deaths in lambs (and many of you have), don’t forget to vaccinate during the first 2-3 weeks of life. There is no colostral protection from the ewe.