



Nantwich Veterinary Group

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Newsletter September 2009

Autumn is once again upon us, and it's time to prepare for housing. Now is the time to be thinking about liver fluke in both sheep and cattle. **Fluke is a killer in sheep** and causes **wasting and poor performance in cattle**. Dairy and beef farmers should consider pooling some muck at your next routine to check on the levels in your herd. Ideally all sheep should be treated for fluke at housing. Any sudden deaths in sheep this back end should be investigated for fluke as it can decimate a flock.

We have seen some serious outbreaks of **lungworm** in cattle this month, some of which **killed multiple cows**. Keep a watch out for coughing cows and consider lungworm as well as IBR this time of year. Any herds that have had lungworm this year should think about using Huskvac next year, particularly for your replacement heifers.

Now is also the time to be thinking about **IBR vaccination** for the housing period. It should ideally be done 2 weeks before housing, and can be done in the muscle if there is no active outbreak in the herd. Just a **word of warning**: If you ever plan to sell a bull to stud, then check with your vet before vaccinating your herd for IBR as you will need to be careful – any immunity to IBR (even from a vaccine given to his mother or penmates) will stop him going to many studs.

We have a couple of reminders:

- We have been taking **liver biopsies to check copper levels** in a number of herds and flocks. Copper deficiency can seriously affect fertility, and copper poisoning is disastrous for both cattle and sheep. Have a word with your routine vet if you are interested in this inexpensive way to decide whether boluses or extra minerals are necessary.
- **FarmWatch** is being rolled out across your herds on a trial basis – many routine clients will have already seen this unique monthly nutrition monitoring report, and those who have not will see it soon. The report uses NMR or CIS milk recordings to show how your cows are responding to their current diet and aims to predict future problems so that you can prevent them. Keep a lookout for CellWatch in the near future, which should offer a new and more effective way to analyse and control cell counts in your herd.

We are very pleased to **welcome Dave Hesketh** as the most recent addition to our expanding farm animal team. Dave is a farmer's son from Lancashire and joins us having graduated from Liverpool Vet School. I am sure you will all make him feel very welcome.

A date for your diaries: Our new **equine and farm surgical facility in Hurleston** is open now, and we are hosting an **open day on 3rd October** - please see the enclosed invitation. We would be very pleased to see you there. This centre will offer advanced diagnostic and surgical facilities, and will provide a **location for more advanced procedures in cattle and sheep, from calves with joint ill through to cows with dislocated hips and even bulls with broken todgers**. Very few (if any) private practices in the UK can offer such facilities for farm animals, and we hope that you will see the benefit. To make your life easier, you will also be able to make the most of the ample parking space by collecting drugs here in addition to Nantwich and Market Drayton.

WANTED: We are looking for a **reliable and good value Massey Ferguson 135** or similar for use at the new centre. Please let us know if you have anything to offer.

All the best for the weeks ahead.

Stuart