



nantwich | farm vets

Farm Animal Newsletter

December 2011

Crewe Road End
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 5SF

01270 610349

www.nantwichvetgroup.co.uk

Tim Briggs	07831305749
Colin Baxter	07860605079
Neil Howie	07831810035
Dave Shaw	07836335185
Rob George	07773384450
John Manson	07813690860
John Yarwood	07814879109
Huw Lloyd	07717780605
Stuart Russell	07770448179
Peter Duncalfe	07717780604
Laura Pennington	07800647608
Steve Crowe	07891843694
Sara Pedersen	07891843573



Christmas & New Year Office

Opening Hours

Sat Dec 24 – 8:30am – 1:30pm
Sun Dec 25 – CLOSED
Mon Dec 26 – CLOSED
Tue Dec 27 – 9:30am – 12:30pm
Wed Dec 28 – NORMAL
Thu Dec 29 – NORMAL
Fri Dec 30 – NORMAL
Sat Dec 31 – 8:30am – 1:30pm
Sun Jan 1 – CLOSED
Mon Jan 2 – 9:30am – 12:30pm

Well, another year is nearly over and the festive season approaches once more. The disease pattern throughout the past twelve months has followed the ups and downs of the weather as well as forage quality and quantity as always, plus a few extras thrown in too!

Throughout the practice cows aren't milking as well as expected or at least as well as forages would suggest they should. As a result some are pushing more concentrates at them and getting Sub Acute Rumen Acidosis (SARA) as a consequence. We have undertaken rumen taps to diagnose this problem. Forage this year is not only in relative short supply but some of the grass silage has low effective NDF and as a result very soft, thus providing inadequate structure to the overall diet. If you suspect SARA please contact us.

October and November have been remarkably mild. We have seen huge outbreaks of pneumonia (youngstock and adults) and environmental mastitis:-

- **IBR** pneumonia (part of cow flu complex) historically thought as an autumn disease as it commonly coincides with housing. The vaccine actually lasts for only 6-8 month, thus a large number of our clients whom house the cows for a large proportion of the year vaccinate their herd every 6 months. Make sure your herd's protected. Talk to one of us.
- We have seen a lot of **E. coli** and **Strep Uberis** mastitis plus occasional **Klebsiella** mastitis (which comes from damp sawdust). Remember clean and dry beds, clean and dry cows and definitely clean and dry teats (Teat preparation is very important). Always take milk samples (be sterile) from every mastitis case and freeze it. These samples will give us a lot of valuable information.

Those of you who attended the excellent meeting at Reaseheath College will now be well aware of the benefits of teat preparation in relation to hygiene and milk let down.

- Calf pneumonia has unsurprisingly hit us this month. Remember have dry beds, no drafts, good ventilation and a vaccination protocol. We have plenty of smoke bombs for demonstrating airflow.



There are a couple of spaces left on our **Heifer Rearing** course on the 14th December (10.30am-2pm). We will be covering all aspects of management from weaning to integrating the heifer in the herd. Call us now to secure your place. Next year's Farm Academy programme will be posted out in a couple of week's time.

Many milk buyers, through supermarket contracts are requesting compulsory quarterly **Johnes** testing. This will coincide with your monthly milk recording, using the same sample. **Please don't panic.** If you have **Johnes** it needs monitoring and managing. We have a large number of herds who have been on quarterly **Johnes** testing for years and are certainly seeing the benefits. The length of the period of monitoring and managing will depend on the level of disease within the herd. We have tried and tested protocols to manage this disease.

Farm Academy goes from strength to strength and feedback has been positive. See the side panel for current courses. Well done to Sara for getting that going for us and look out for next year's programme. The first two workshops on lameness brought particular interest in the **DairyCo Healthy Feet Program**. Peter has joined Sara as a trained 'Mobility Mentor' so we can more effectively deliver this service to you and your cows.

There is now a grant available to clients in Staffordshire and Shropshire through the Farm and Forestry Improvement Scheme. For further information contact Katie in our office. Round one applications need to be submitted by the 17th January 2012 with total amount of grant available to each farm in the region of £25,000.

You should all have had a 'Contact Details Update' form by now. Could I politely ask that you return this to us in the pre-paid envelope as soon as possible, as this will enable us to update our records so we can keep you informed more appropriately for your farm needs. Thank you!

Finally on behalf of the Nantwich Farm Vets team may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.