



Nantwich Veterinary Group

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Newsletter July 2009

Summer seems to have finally arrived, and with it comes its own problems. It has been known for a long time there is increasing resistance to wormers in sheep; there is now increasing concern to their resistance in cattle. We are currently involved in a trial with Bristol vet school to investigate this further. This involves any first grazing heifers wormed with either a drench or a pour-on, not boluses. If you are interested all you need to do is get an initial pack free from us and take 10 muck samples from first grazers when you worm them, these need posting at the start of the week or chilled until the next week. They will then send you further packs to take samples at 7,14,21 and 28 days later (fresh samples from the field are fine). This will tell you if the cattle had worms when you treated them, if they have been dosed properly and if the worms are resistant. Although we can not offer free sampling in sheep it is well worth considering sampling pre and post worming to check on resistance to the products you are currently using.

With the recent very hot weather I have seen a few cows with heat stroke. This is normally seen in an afternoon after a hot day. Signs include depression; increased breathing rate, possibly with their mouth open and frothing at the mouth; sweating and very high temperature. Moving the animals to somewhere cooler and hosing them down is normally adequate as far as treatment goes, if they don't respond quickly (temperature drops to just above normal in half an hour to an hour) then ring us they may need intra-venous fluids. Remember cows down for whatever reason will be more prone to this. Also with the weather the way it is flies are fast on the increase, watch out for summer mastitis and consider pour-on products for fly prevention.

A high proportion of the calvings we have been doing recently have been twisted uterus, the reason for this is, as ever, unclear. Advice for cows that were not getting on with calving was always to give a bottle of calcium and some time. I think now with such a higher proportion than before the advice has to be put your hand in to check. Normally it is possible to feel your hand being taken in the direction of the twist as you put your arm in or the calf feels to be dropped down beneath a lip in the uterus and will usually be on its side or upside-down. Early correction is far more preferable, they are a lot easier to sort out with a live calf!

Later this month there will be a new vet starting on the farm animal side, Laura Pennington. She has just qualified from Bristol Vet School and is a farmers daughter from North Cheshire. I am sure you will all give her the usual welcome!

Nantwich show is fast approaching; we are having the usual beef baps, ice cream and drink. Everyone is welcome, hope to see you there.

John Yarwood