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Facebook: Nantwich Farm Vets
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Drug Changes:

We always endeavour to provide you with the best prices for the drugs we supply. Over the next couple of months you may see some of the following changes in our products:

Bovilis BVD vaccine is replacing Pregsure BVD. NOTE: Bovilis BVD is administered into the muscle, NOT under the skin.

CIDRs will be used exclusively in our fertility visits, rather than PRIDs.

Receptal will be used in place of Fertagyl.

This green and pleasant land provides constant variety- not a lot of storm and tempest or fire and brimstone, but sunshine and showers to keep the grass growing. But what a variety this spring – silage in early May in Wettenhall! And many of you might have been glad of a day of rain while silage making. But what of the rest of the season? Is there sufficient grass for the cows' needs now?

There are some very interesting patterns showing up in recent CowWatch reports- many herds' protein yields are down while milk yields are up- which means big falls in protein %. Falls in protein % are associated with poor fertility later. Is that the situation you are in?

Likewise, fat % has dropped enough to suggest acidosis is a risk in some herds. Although we tend to think of this as a winter problem, it can occur at grass. This is particularly the case where diets are unevenly spread throughout the day – large parlour feeds followed by grazing, or even when cows are housed all night on energy dense TMR then turned out in the day. What do your butterfat levels suggest?

Gut and lungworms

Sunshine and dryness are both excellent bug-killers – a good thing for disease control. Worms on pasture are equally vulnerable in such conditions, which goes some way to explaining why youngstock always appear to do well on limited pasture during a dry spell. But watch out! Things can soon change and some muck samples for worm egg counts may well indicate it's time for a pre-emptive strike on worms.

As ever, this time of year brings a warning to watch out for lungworm. We have already seen some outbreaks. Husk is a serious killer of youngstock and adult cows so investigate any obvious coughing, often induced when the cattle are on the move. Delaying treatment even a few days can cost many lives. And by the way, we want to investigate patterns of lungworm infection. If you have had adult cattle affected in the last couple of summers, please let us know. There may be some follow-up investigation you can help with.



Fly control

There is no bluetongue vaccine this year, but lessons can still be learned from the disease. In the last couple of years more of you applied fly repellents early in the season because of the bluetongue risk. Our observation is that this resulted in much less fly irritation later in the season. Kill a fly in May and you kill a million in September. So get going with the fly repellents now.

Also over the last few years we have very good feedback from farmers applying Oxyfly to walls of calf sheds, calving barns etc. It works well and is easy to do with a household sprayer.



If you would like grant(s) for development projects connected with animal health and welfare, you are eligible for 40% grants towards anything above and beyond standard farming practice, up to £12000 per business.

Items grant aided so far include: 'Heat Time,' backflush systems, high-comfort cubicles and mattresses, calf hutches, grooving yards, rubber matting for yards or walkways etc.

For more info go to www.livestocknw.co.uk, or contact Tim Briggs on 07831 305749.