



# nantwich | veterinary group

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## Farm Animal Newsletter - May 2010

What wonderful weather we have been enjoying this last month! Now we just need a spot of rain to improve the grass growth a bit. It's been good to see cows out in the fields these last couple of weeks, but as you well know supplementary feeding is vital. This is especially the case in your dry cows to prevent milk fever after calving and in your fresh cows to maximise feed intake to prevent LDAs. We've banged on about this in the last couple of newsletters, but they are preventable causes of profit loss, so we should be doing everything we can to prevent them.

### Worming

Turnout should also bring to mind the need for worming in youngstock. Dectomax has an extended duration, and therefore requires only two treatments (one at turnout, one 8 weeks later) to cover the grazing season, making it very cost effective. Make sure you don't worm stock until 14 days after their second Huskvac dose though. For our current Dectomax pricing see overleaf.



### Fly Control

Flies are already starting to make an appearance because of the warm weather. Besides being an absolute nuisance, they spread the bacteria that cause New Forest Eye (eye ulcers and painful watery eyes) and August Bag (summer mastitis). Treating early (on cows and in buildings) before they get a chance to breed rapidly will reduce the fly population later in the summer. Butox Swish (promotion overleaf) can be used on the cattle to control both flies and midges (an aid to your Bluetongue control program!)

### DairyCowWatch

I know we've done a lot of recent advertising and promoting of the FarmWatch milk recording analysis program which is now up and running. For legal reasons the name has been changed CowWatch and CellWatch reports. If you haven't already, contact us to sign up for these. Prices vary depending on how frequently you want reports:

- Every recording - £30 per report
- Every other recording - £45 per report
- Every third recording - £60 per report
- One off report - £100



Now a couple of notes for the shepherds among you:

### ***Nematodirus battus* in lambs**

Keep a close eye on your lambs at the moment, as there have been reported cases of *Nematodirus* worms causing scour and sudden death in lambs out at pasture. This is earlier than seen in other years. Disease is typically seen in lambs 6-12 weeks of age. The most important risk factor is grazing lambs on pasture where lambs or calves (which can also cycle the infection) grazed the

previous year. This worm can be fatal without apparent scour, so if you are suffering any losses seek our advice immediately. Dectomax injectable is an effective, licensed solution.

### **Coccidiosis**

This is another seasonal problem in lambs, which often presents with blood and mucus in scour, unproductive straining, sudden deaths or just poor growth. Seek our advice if you suspect cocci in your young animals and we can send off pooled muck samples (currently under a limited pharmaceutical company sponsorship available for both calves and lambs) to check for. Baycox Sheep is a newly licensed product with a longer period of cover than some of the other treatment/prevention options, and is highly effective.

### **FlockCheck 2010**

Enzootic Abortion (EAE) and Toxoplasmosis account for more than 75% of pregnancy loss in flocks. If you don't vaccinate your flock for abortions and you have had a few this season it would be well worth taking advantage of Intervet/Schering-Plough's subsidised FlockCheck. This involves taking blood samples from 6-8 aborted ewes to test for exposure to the organisms involved. If significant exposure is found, vaccination is a cost-effective way of improving lambing productivity for following seasons. Give us a ring if you want to investigate or have any questions about this service.

### **And finally...**

We lend out hip hoists to help you look after your down cows, but depend on their return for this to be a sustainable service! We are currently one set short so please return them (or at least let us know) if you have them.

All the best for the up-coming silaging!

#### Seasonal promotions (ex. VAT):

<b>Dectomax</b>	Injection (s/c)	500ml	£178.25	(£1.43 per 200kg dose)
		1200ml	£331.51	(£1.11 per 200kg dose)
	Pour on	3L	£151.29	(£1 per 200kg dose)
<b>Butox Swish Value Pack</b>			£314.75	(~52p per 200kg dose)
(4x2.5L + 2x1L + gun)				