



nantwich | veterinary group

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Farm Animal Newsletter - November 2009

Hopefully most of you will have taken a successful maize crop and will be preparing for the winter ahead.

Some diseases to keep in mind at housing include:

Digital dermatitis

This is a widespread infectious cause of lameness, which is common during housing basically due to slurry bathing of feet. Try to keep feet as clean as possible and use 5% formalin or copper sulphate at 1lb/gallon of water in footbaths daily, four or five times a week (Mon-Fri and then rest Sat & Sun).

Coccidiosis

There is an increased risk of coccidiosis in calves that are housed together in close proximity. Coccidiosis affects calves soon after a change in diet or a change in environment. Cocci loves compromised gut. We have also seen it in calves kept outside and fed concentrates. The cocci develop around poached areas – beware! The clinical signs are seen in calves over 21 days old and include scouring as well as poor growth rates. An information sheet on coccidiosis is attached.

Pneumonia

We have lately seen large numbers of cows and calves suffering from pneumonia. In cows we normally see high temperatures, milk drop and increased respiratory rate, often in freshly calved cows after the stress of calving. Now is the time to vaccinate your herd for IBR. For calves please consider ventilation, stocking density and vaccination.

Worms

Worming youngstock as they come in is a good idea to clear out any worms picked up towards the end of the grazing season and ensure maximum feed conversion efficiency over the winter. It also prevents the overwintering of larvae within the stomach walls which can re-emerge in huge numbers next spring and cause severe disease.

DO NOT FORGET FLUKE! – pool faeces for testing.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Mycobind is a new product which binds mycotoxins and also contains yeast. Dry forages this season have certainly had mycotoxin involvement. Effects can include cows suffering from puffy joints, digestive upset, abortions or lost pregnancies. For more information please contact Neil.

Micotil has had a couple of label changes within the last month. It can now be used in lactating dairy cows and has a milk withhold in cattle of 36 days. This alteration means that Micotil could be considered as a treatment for cows that have a high somatic cell count *at drying off*. A veterinary surgeon must still administer the drug which is a single subcutaneous injection.

Recently, Peter, one of our farm vets went on the **DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan** (DMCP) training course. The DMCP is a new way to tackle mastitis on your farm that takes a preventative approach to solving the problem, rather than focusing on treating and culling cows that are already infected. Using a detailed questionnaire, historic cell count and mastitis data and DMCP software, a plan is produced that is specific to your farm and your management, which prioritises actions which will have the highest impact on mastitis incidence on your farm straight away. For more information or to show your interest in the plan, talk with your routine vet or call Peter on 07717 780604.

Reminder for all sheep farmers: New Electronic ID rules will come into place in the New Year. Under the regulations, all sheep born on or after December 31 2009 must have two identifiers, one electronic (ear tag, pastern tag or bolus) and one non-electronic. Lambs destined for slaughter before the age of 12 months do not need to be identified electronically and a slaughter tag can be used.

For those animals born before December 31 2009, batch records will remain in use.

The only exception to these rules is when batches of sheep are from multiple holdings of origin. Farmers are advised to contact their market/ abattoir to check what is required before they begin tagging as some may be reluctant to manually read individual tags and prefer electronic identification.

For more information see www.eblex.org.uk.

Laura