

THREE RIVERS VETERINARY GROUP

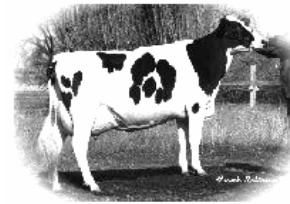
FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

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CATTLE PRACTICE

DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER.



Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from all the vets and staff at Three Rivers.

New Arrangements for Fallen Cattle.

The current EU requirement is that all cattle *over 24 months* that have died or been killed on farm must be tested for BSE. This is expected to be increased to *over 48 months* from 1st January 2009.

In Great Britain arrangements for collection, sampling and disposal of adult cattle carcasses are currently run by RPA as a free service to farmers. The Government has consulted as part of its Responsibility and Cost Sharing (RCS) proposals on changes to these arrangements, and has now decided that farmers will become responsible for the collection and disposal of fallen adult cattle.

Fallen cattle 24 - 48 months (assuming an increase in testing age).

From 1st January 2009 the free service will end; these cattle will not need to be tested for BSE and they can be sent to any approved animal by-products premises.

Fallen cattle over 48 months.

From 12th January 2009 the free RPA service will end. These cattle will need to be tested for BSE under EU rules. Carcasses must be sent to approved sampling sites.

Cattle keepers must contact a collector within 24 hours of death to arrange delivery to an approved sampling site. If delivering the carcass themselves, they must contact an approved sampling site to agree to this within 24 hours and must deliver the carcass within 72 hours.

Failure to make arrangements with a collector or a sampling site within 24 hours will be an offence under the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) regulations.

It will no longer be necessary for farmers to contact the TSE surveillance hotline.

A risk too far..

Mastitis caused by *Mycoplasma bovis* is rare in the UK but common in the USA. The consequences can be very severe if it gets into a dairy herd. A dairy herd in Herefordshire purchased five replacement cows from a herd dispersal sale. One or more of the cows were carrying *Mycoplasma bovis*. The results were:

- Severe cases of mastitis unresponsive to treatment necessitating culling (8 cows in 3 weeks).
- Severe arthritis in 21 cows, the organism gets into the joints, usually resulting in lameness, recumbency and euthanasia.
- Calf pneumonia and middle ear disease in calves fed waste milk.

More changes to 'Nuflor'.

Last month I announced that Nuflor was now available as Nuflor Minidose.

Nuflor Minidose is more concentrated and the dose volume is 30% less. However the product is still very thick and difficult to syringe.

There is now a new product on the market called **Selectan**; it has the same dose rate as the original Nuflor but it a big advantage. It

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has a low viscosity i.e. it is a much thinner solution and is easy to use (good syringeability). For this reason we will be stocking **Selectan** in future. The price per kilogram bodyweight is the same as for Nuflor Minidose.

Resflor, which also contains an anti-inflammatory agent, is still a unique product and we will continue to stock it.

Bluetongue serotype one detected in Lancashire.

Defra has announced the detection of Bluetongue (Serotype 1) (BTV1) in five imported cattle on premises near Blackpool in Lancashire. The animals originated from within the BTV1 & 8 Restricted Zone in the south west of France and were detected as a result of post-import testing carried out by Defra on all Bluetongue susceptible animals arriving from continental Europe. The animals' documentation complied with the EU Bluetongue rules governing the movement of livestock as the movement occurred at least 60 days after they had been vaccinated.

This is the first case of BTV1 infection in the UK and the five animals have been culled as they may pose a disease threat to other animals. One further animal from the same consignment has also been culled. Test results for that animal were positive for bluetongue although it was not possible to determine the serotype.

To all practical intents, BTV1 is a different disease from BTV8, although its effects are almost identical. Protecting an animal against either one confers no immunity against the other.

There is no evidence that BTV1 is circulating in the UK and no additional control zones have been declared.

This response is in accordance with Defra's Bluetongue Control Strategy. The premises are now under restriction while an epidemiological investigation takes place. This will include further checks on the other animals present on the premises.

12 Million Bluetongue doses unsold!

In response to a parliamentary question Defra has stated that 12 million doses of Bluetongue vaccine remain unsold at a cost to the Government of over £5 million. In a written response the Minister for Farming

and the Environment stated that the uptake of vaccine was as follows:

- East Anglia – More than 80%.
- South West – Less than 80%
- North of England – less than 40%.
- Overall uptake – approx 60%.

France has announced a compulsory vaccination campaign against BTV 8 and BTV 1 starting on December 15th.

Loss of Ringworm treatment.

Mycophyt, the most effective ringworm treatment we have left, has been taken off the market for economic reasons.

I have obtained a number of bottles, (expiry date of the end of February 2009) and will sell them at cost price on a first come first served basis. Two treatments are required at a 5 day interval and each bottle contains 10 adult doses (5 courses). There is no milk or meat withdrawal – this may be your best opportunity to get on top of Ringworm in your herd. The cost per adult dose is £2.40 + vat i.e. £4.40 + vat per course.

Closamectin Injection – Special Offer.

NB There is a 60 day milk withdrawal.

Treats cattle for liver fluke (adults & immatures), gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, lice, mange mites. Ideal for all young stock and beef cows at housing.

We are able to offer **two special offers** which include injection guns;

Pack 1: contains 2 x 500ml which is enough for 83 x 300kg cattle or approx 40 adults: **£181.50 + vat.**

Pack 2: contains 4 x 500ml which is enough for 166 x 300kg cattle or approx 80 adults: **£352.00 + vat.**

For smaller numbers of cattle there are 100ml, 250ml and 500ml sizes and the gun is extra.

Trodax Injection – fluke treatment – Offer pack.

Treats liver fluke only – ideal at drying off for dairy cows.

The pack contains 2x500ml which contains enough for 66 x 500kg cattle (or 111 x 300 Kg) - **£123.50 + vat.**

Ivermectin Pour-On – NOW CHEAPER! **For lungworm and gut worms.**

Enovex 2.5 litres is now £44.74 + vat – a saving of £10.26 +vat over previous price!

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