

THREE RIVERS VETERINARY GROUP

FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

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CATTLE PRACTICE

AUGUST 2010 NEWSLETTER.



If any of you need advice regarding specific diseases on your farm and the options available to you for their control, prevention and treatment; please use the free One To One sessions (up to three people can attend). They are funded by your money and if they are not used they will be lost.

Coccidiosis in Calves.

The incidence of Coccidiosis in both beef and dairy calves continues to increase. The removal of Rumensin from cattle diets started the increase, because as an additional effect to growth promotion it helped to control the level of coccidia in the gut.

Coccidiosis causes severe damage to the lining of the gut and produces permanent scarring. Calves which suffer from the disease will not thrive or grow as well as they would normally do.

The majority of farms are now having to use strategic dosing to control Coccidiosis. This involves the use of a single anticoccidial oral treatment (either Baycox Bovis or Vecoxan) approximately **14 days** after the calf is introduced to a high risk environment.

The timing of this treatment is crucial both in preventing clinical disease but also in allowing the development of protective immunity.

The success of the single treatment depends upon giving the calf sufficient exposure to the coccidia to develop immunity and then killing the Coccidia before they have a chance to produce disease.

- **Treat too early** and the calves will not have been exposed enough to produce an immunity and they will go down with disease later.

- **Treat too late** and they will develop the disease.

Each farm will have a different risk period and knowledge of this will be important in deciding on the best time to treat.

As a rough guide for dairy herds the usual high

risk period is three to four weeks after weaning. In beef herds the risk period can be in older calves at weaning, stress times such as transport of weaned calves or when grouped together in fattening yards.

Bovine Besnoitiosis - Another New Disease on the Horizon!

Bovine Besnoitiosis is a disease caused by a protozoan (like coccidiosis) and it affects both dairy and beef cattle, mainly those over 6 months of age. The organism is called *Besnoitia besnoiti* and it is transmitted between cattle by wounds and abrasions. It is thought that biting insects such as horse flies will transmit the disease.

The disease originated in Africa but it has now been imported into Spain and possibly other European Countries. A new blood test has been developed and it may be too early to know the extent of the disease in Europe. The symptoms are:

- **Initial signs:** fever, weakness, swelling of lymph nodes, and oedema (fluid swellings) and possibly respiratory signs.

- **Chronic signs:** thickening of the skin 'elephant-skin', alopecia, loss of body weight, sterility and orchitis in males.

The main risk to the UK is from the importation of infected cattle.

Unlocking Strep uberis Mastitis.

Whilst there is an eagerly awaited vaccine on the horizon for Staph aureus, E.coli and Coagulase negative staph infections; to date no vaccine has been developed for Strep uberis.

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Researchers at Nottingham, Oxford universities and the Institute for Animal Health have found that *Strep uberis* needs an enzyme 'StrA' to cause mastitis.

It is hoped that this finding will be the key to producing an effective vaccine. However from a breakthrough like this to a vaccine being available for you on the farm will take a number of years.

Relieve Pain and Cut Cell Counts!

Pain relief for cases of mastitis has not been a routine treatment, except for cases of E.Coli mastitis or high temperatures.

Pain relief is provided by the NSAIDs (non steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) – examples are: Ketofen Flunixin, Rimadyl, Carprieve and Metacam. NSAIDs also reduce inflammation and body temperature in cases of fever.

Longer acting NSAIDs such as Rimadyl, Carprieve and Metacam have been developed recently and only require one injection. Rimadyl and Carprieve also have a nil milk withdrawal period, which is useful when treating other problems which do not require antibiotics.

A recent piece of research has shown that NSAIDs not only reduce pain but they also reduce the number of white cells in the milk after a case of mastitis.

After a case of mastitis it can take between 4 to 6 weeks for the cell count to fall. However after treatment with a NSAID was added to the antibiotic treatment (Metacam was used) the cell counts were lower after 3 weeks in 33% of cows. In addition the culling rate fell from 28.2% to 16.4%.

The trial work was carried out in New Zealand where *Strep uberis* is the main cause of mastitis, so it is very relevant to our area.

When treating cases of mastitis it is extremely important that high levels of antibiotic are delivered to the infected quarter, which is why early treatment with both an intramammary tube and an antibiotic injection is the best policy. However this research shows that giving an NSAID at the same time will help to reduce the cell count more quickly and reduce the likelihood of culling. In addition it will give the cow pain relief so that she will be back on her food more quickly which should mean that milk production will recover faster.

Summer Mastitis/New Forest Eye.

The fly levels are currently predicted to be above average and this year looks set to be a high-risk year.

Routine prevention measures are:

- Make sure that all dry cows receive dry cow therapy and Orbeseal.
- Use a good fly control product for all classes of cattle – Butox Swish.
- Keep cows away from the preferred environment of the fly. The lowest incidence pastures are usually open and on high ground. Avoid fields, which have low lying, damp and wooded areas within 100 yards of the boundary.
- Don't forget maiden and pregnant heifers in your preventive measures.
- Treat both diseases as soon as possible.

Butox Swish - controls flies (8weeks) and midges (4 weeks).

Now proven rainfast!

250ml - £14.63 (8 cows).

1 Litre – £48.37 (33 cows).

2.5 Litre - £107.53 (83 cows).

12.0 Litre plus applicator (400 cow pack) £430.08. *All prices excluding Vat.*

Summer Parasite Treatments Due Now!

Now is the time to ensure you are on top of parasite problems in your cattle at pasture.

Thunderstorms can lead to a rapid spread of larvae from dung pats and a localised outbreak of lungworm and parasitic gastroenteritis, so treat youngstock now.

A summer treatment for Liver Fluke helps to reduce the pasture contamination.

Ivermectin Pour-On .

For lungworm and gut worms:

2.5 litres Enovex at £46.09 + VAT!!!

Closamectin Pour-On.

NB There is a 60 day milk withdrawal.

Treats cattle for liver fluke (adults & immatures), gastrointestinal roundworms, lungworms, lice, mange mites.

Dose rate - 1ml per 10 Kg body weight.

1 litre: £119.84 + Vat.

2.5 Litre: £210.94 + Vat.

5 Litre: £418.95 + Vat.

Gun: £16.05 +Vat.

Trodax Injection.

Treats liver fluke only – can be used with pour-on wormer.

The pack contains 2x500ml which contains enough for 66 x 500kg cattle (or 111 x 300 Kg) - **£42.28 + Vat.**