

THREE RIVERS VETERINARY GROUP.

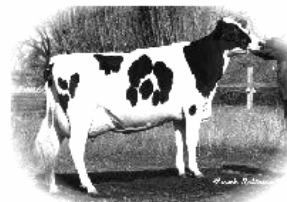
FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

THE VETERINARY CLINIC,
LONDON ROAD, BECCLES,
SUFFOLK. NR34 9YU.

TEL: 01502 712169 FAX: 01502 712694

CATTLE PRACTICE

FEBRUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER.



Now is the time to plan your spring vaccination and worming programs. We can offer free advisory sessions on these subjects, so please contact us if you would like to arrange this.

Bovine TB Prevention & Control.

We will be holding a meeting on practical ways to prevent and manage bovine TB in your herd on March 16th at The Flixton Buck 7.00 for 7.30pm.

These meetings have been rolled out throughout the country as joint initiative between DEFRA and the NFU and are being presented through the NADIS knowledge transfer initiative.

Many changes are occurring at the present time in regard to the relationship between DEFRA and livestock farmers in the shape of the responsibility and cost sharing report, which was published in December 2010. The way in which DEFRA uses veterinary services for all notifiable disease control and testing including bovine TB is currently under review. The current system is to be replaced by a tendering process the details of which have yet to be announced.

As part of the cost sharing initiative livestock owners will be expected to show due diligence in their disease control and biosecurity measures, failure to do so is likely to impact upon any compensation payments etc.

Attendance at these meetings and at our biosecurity workshops is one way in which farmers can show their commitment to TB prevention and control.

The venue is limited to 50 people but other meetings will be arranged if there is sufficient interest.

Calf Health Seminar.

The calf health seminar held last month attracted a very large turnout and as the venue could only hold 50 people, we could not fit everyone in.

We are going to hold a workshop for those people and for anyone else who could not come. Please contact Karen Flynn if you would like to attend.

Game bird health workshops.

We are holding a series of game bird workshops at The Veterinary Clinic at Beccles. There are five modules which will be covered in two afternoon courses. A certificate is provided as evidence of the training. The subjects covered so far in the game bird health training programme are:

1. Diseases of the Laying Flock.
2. The hatchery.
3. Early Rearing.
4. Diseases from 10 days to 7 weeks.
5. The Release Pen.

This is the ideal time of the year to update your knowledge so please contact Karen Flynn to book your place.

Q Fever.

This is probably a good time to update you on the situation with regard to Q Fever, which has become widespread in Holland and possibly other European countries.

Q Fever is an infection which is transmissible to humans and is caused by *Coxiella burnetii* a bacterium which lives inside the cells of the infected animal or

M. E. BARDSLEY B. Vet Med. Cert CHP*. MRCVS.

human. Ruminants are considered to be the main source of infection in humans.

In cattle the symptoms are mainly subclinical. In humans infections are mainly asymptomatic but can cause acute or chronic disease such as flu-like illness, pneumonia, endocarditis, hepatitis, abortion and stillbirth.

In a recent study bulk milk samples were taken from 341 Dutch dairy herds. 76.6% were positive for antibodies and 56.6% had the bacterium present in the milk.

In 2008, there were five diagnoses of Q Fever in UK farm livestock specimens submitted to VLA and SAC laboratories (two in cattle, two in sheep and one in goats). No cases had been diagnosed in 2009 up until the end of September.

The organism may be present in reproductive fluids of infected animals, e.g. sheep at lambing. Infection of other animals occurs through inhalation of aerosols or ingestion of infected contaminated material. There is also the possibility that ticks carrying the infection may infect animals. The organism may also be present in raw milk, urine and faeces from infected animals. The organism may survive in a resistant spore-like form in the environment for variable periods of time and be a source of infection. It is not susceptible to common disinfectants.

Infection is most likely to be spread into the cattle population by sheep and goats or purchased animals.

The Dutch government has announced that it would carry out a cull of sheep and goats in the Netherlands in response to the sharp rise in cases in both the animal and human population. It is thought that up to 40,000 sheep and goats may be culled.

This is another disease which demonstrates how important biosecurity is on all cattle units.

Lice infestations.

It seems to be a bad year for lice infestations on cattle. The cheapest way to treat lice is to use the low dose recommended for Butox Swish. Only 10ml is required for lice control regardless of the size of animal, which means an individual cost of treatment of 40 – 50p depending on the pack size.

The Cost of Sub Fertility in Bulls.

A completely infertile bull is a disaster but a sub fertile bull is harder to detect, especially if he is being rotated with other fertile bulls. However the protracted calving period which results will have a serious impact upon calf weaning weights, subsequent fertility and farm income.

In dairy herds which use a bull as sweeper, all year round, sub fertility is common often as a result of lameness, stress etc.

All bulls in both dairy and beef enterprises should be tested for fertility either 1 or 2 months before the start of each breeding season or, if used all year round, every six months. Good fertility in the previous season does not guarantee the same results in the following year.

We are able to carry out a fertility check (including semen analysis) on all breeding bulls and also test any bulls which you are going to buy or sell.

Why is Body Condition Scoring so Important in Beef Suckler Cows?

Some of the reasons are fairly obvious i.e. saving winter feed, maximising fertility and minimising calving difficulties.

However there are other major problems for both thin and fat cows. Thin cows with a score of 1.5 lose bodyweight about 33% more rapidly than a cow of average body score of 2.5 when they are underfed. The situation is reversed for fat cows with a condition score of 3.5 or more.

Therefore it is difficult to correct the body scores of both fat and thin cows and the objective of condition scoring is to avoid cows reaching these extremes and the associated problems that occur with it.

We are able to offer *free on-farm body condition score training*, please contact Karen Flynn to arrange an appointment

Closamectin Pour-On Special Offer.

We are able to offer 2.5 Litre packs at a price of £207.27 + vat. A limited number of free waterproof leggings are available. The product has an end of March 2011 expiry date.

Trodax Injection.

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

The pack contains 2x500ml which contains enough for 66 x 500kg cattle (or 111 x 300 Kg) - **£149.40 + Vat.**

M. E. BARDSLEY B. Vet Med. Cert CHP*. MRCVS.