

THREE RIVERS VETERINARY GROUP

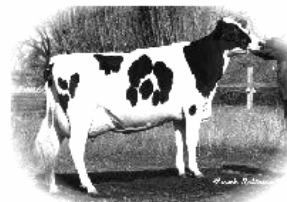
FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

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CATTLE PRACTICE

JANUARY 2011 NEWSLETTER.



Happy New Year from everyone at Three Rivers Veterinary Group.

Histophilus Somni infection.

Histophilus somni was first identified in the late 1950's but it has not been given much prominence as an important cause of disease until recent years. This bacterium is present on most farms and it is an opportunist which causes disease when the circumstances allow; it may be secondary to other bacteria and viruses or it may cause primary disease in its own right. The main diseases it causes are:

- Bovine Respiratory disease usually with other bacteria such as *Mannheimia haemolytica* or respiratory viruses.
- Bacterial myocarditis; this is one of several fatal syndromes associated with *H. Somni* infection in cattle secondary to respiratory disease. It is an infection of the heart muscle.
- Thrombotic meningoencephalitis; ie a type of meningitis.
- Other infections can occur as a result of the organism getting into the blood stream such as arthritis and otitis (ear infection).
- Abortions have been associated with *Histophilus somni*.
- More recently an infertility syndrome associated with retained cleansings and metritis has been diagnosed, the infection is spread by venereal transmission by bulls running with the herd.

Histophilus somni infection can be overlooked in a herd because it may be put down to other organisms or complications of respiratory disease. The disease is also difficult to diagnose because it can be overgrown on culture plates in the laboratory by other bacteria.

Recent surveys in cattle have shown an increase in bacterial causes of pneumonia and a decrease in viral infections. This may be due to an increased use of viral vaccines but it may also be due to an increase in the incidence of *Histophilus* infections.

Histophilus somni vaccination.

As there is now a vaccine available to protect against *Histophilus somni* and *Mannheimia haemolytica* we are able to prevent losses due to this disease.

It is worth reassessing the causative organisms of respiratory disease on your farm when you next have an outbreak of pneumonia. The simplest way to do this is to take some blood samples from recovered animals 3 weeks after the infection to see which antibodies have developed in the blood stream.

The vaccine is called **Hiprabovis Pneumos** and it can be given from two months of age and consists of two doses of 2ml given subcutaneously 3 weeks apart.

Dairy Heifer Mortality Survey.

A recent survey has looked at dairy heifer mortality on 19 dairy farms (all Holstein-Friesian) in the south of England. There are some stark facts which show that 20% of all calves born fail to calve for the first time.

- 8% of male and female calves died within 24 hours of life.
- 3% of heifers died within the first month, mainly due to scours and pneumonia.

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- 7% of heifers died by breeding age at 15 months. In the first six months of life pneumonia is a prime risk factor.
 - 4% of heifers served at least once failed to calve primarily due to infertility.
- This is a significant loss to the economic performance of these dairy units and demonstrates the effect that good disease prevention and control can have on profitability.

Healthy Hooves Footbath Update.

Following some recent successful on-farm trials using footbaths containing Healthy Hooves as a method of controlling Digital dermatitis, a consistent treatment program has been demonstrated.

In order to cut costs we have reverted to the straight Healthy Hooves product, which is mixed with copper sulphate at the rate of 1litre Healthy Hooves to 1 Kg Copper sulphate. Copper sulphate is as good as Formalin in the treatment of Digital dermatitis without the human health and cancer risks. Also don't forget that Formalin is ineffective in cold weather because the chemical separates out.

To recap Healthy Hooves is:

- A low pH, patented, triple buffered formula that completely dissolves copper sulphate and makes 85% of the cupric ion bio available in solution.
- A cost effective part of managing the health of your dairy herd.
- Effective for 300-400 cows before recharging per 200 litres of footbath.
- Effective at any temperature.
- It doesn't sting like Formalin and is therefore a much kinder product.

It is important to start the Healthy Hooves footbathing program intensively:

Example for a 200 litre footbath:

First Three Weeks (6 days a week)

4 Kilos Copper Sulphate

Plus

4 Ltrs
of Healthy Hooves®

for 300 + cows

ON-GOING USE (3 times / week)

4 Kilos of Copper Sulphate

Plus

4 Ltrs
of Healthy Hooves®

for
up to 400 Cows

Other footbath volumes are treated at a pro-rata rate.

It is extremely important to follow this protocol especially if Formalin footbaths have been used previously.

Formalin acts in a different way and initially acts as a barrier to copper sulphate, preventing the copper ions from penetrating the skin. For the first three weeks the lesions may look to be worse until the copper sulphate penetrates the lesion, which then becomes blackened.

This treatment regime using straight healthy Hooves results in a cost saving of £3.56 per 200 litres footbath. In addition at the moment we are able to offer copper sulphate pentahydrate at £38 per 25 Kg bag.

Ivermectin Pour-On .

For lungworm and gut worms:

2.5 litres Enovex at £47.47 + 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: £123.44 + Vat.

2.5 Litre: £217.27 + Vat.

5 Litre: £431.52+ Vat.

Gun: £16.05 +Vat.

January Special Offer – buy 2 or more 2.5 litre packs and get an extra £10 discount per pack.

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.**

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* ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS CERTIFICATE HOLDER IN CATTLE HEALTH AND PRODUCTION