

THREE RIVERS VETERINARY GROUP

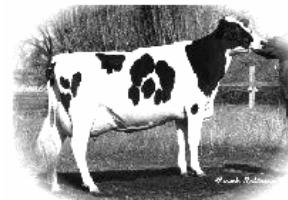
FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

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CATTLE PRACTICE

JUNE 2009 NEWSLETTER.



The Dairy Co Mastitis Control Plan will be launched in June; our practice will be one of the first qualified users, for details see www.mastitiscontrolplan.co.uk.

Dairy Co Mastitis Control Plan.

This has been announced as the biggest advance in mastitis control in dairy herds since the Compton 5-Point Plan in the 1950's. The main emphasis of the plan is in the reduction of clinical mastitis cases on farm.

The plan is based on an extensive fact finding questionnaire on each farm followed by analysis using a new software program which was developed by Dairy Co and the University of Nottingham. A small number of vets in practice were initially invited to be trained in the use of the computer program. There are 3 vets in East Anglia authorised to use the program at present, who are myself, a vet from Stowmarket and one from Fakenham.

We hope to be in a position to offer this to our dairy farmers within the next month.

Ubro Yellow (Leo Yellow) temporarily unavailable.

We have been notified that Ubro Yellow mastitis tubes will be out of stock for a while after the current supplies have been used up.

This is because of a problem regarding the sourcing of one of the ingredients and it is likely to be a long term issue.

If you use Ubro Yellow then it would be advisable to try and obtain some stock now. Alternative intramammary tubes with a similar specification are Tetra Delta and Multiject; Ubrolexin may also work well.

Calf Scours at grass could be Cryptosporidia.

Together with rotavirus, cryptosporidia is one of the most common causes of calf scour in UK dairy and suckler herds. But scours caused by cryptosporidia are not always confined to housed calves. Calves calving outside in the late spring are also susceptible to infection between one and two weeks of age, particularly if conditions underfoot are muddy around ring feeders.

The major source of cryptosporidia is thought to be either adult cows (which act as carriers without showing signs of disease) or infected scouring calves passing the parasite in their faeces. The infectious dose of the organism is very low and if ring feeders are not moved regularly the disease threat around them can be very similar to the housed situation. Faecal contamination of feed and water troughs can also be reduced by raising and covering them.

If you do get any young calves scouring at grass ask us to test a faecal sample. We are able to test calf faeces at the practice for the following diseases;

- Rotavirus.
- Coronavirus.
- E. Coli K99
- Cryptosporidia.

The easiest way to obtain a sample is to insert a gloved finger into the rectum and a little stimulation will usually produce a sample.

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

We require about a teaspoonful from each calf in a sterile bottle, dairy farmers can use milk sample pots or we can provide you with sample pots and gloves. Remember that Cryptosporidia is transmissible to humans (as are some other calf scour organisms), so wear gloves and ensure the sample is handed to our staff inside a clean outer plastic bag/container. Faecal samples will allow us to diagnose the cause of any scour problems on your holding – whether the disease is occurring at grass or when the animals are housed. Cryptosporidiosis in calves is often seen in combination with other diseases, particularly rotavirus. So vaccinating cows against rotavirus with Rotavec-Corona® one to three months pre-calving can often tip the balance in your favour. If cryptosporidia is a particular problem on your unit, you can reduce parasite replication and excretion with Halocur®. Halocur® is the only product licensed to treat and prevent cryptosporidiosis. Administered orally to calves after feeding (daily for seven days), it can reduce the severity of diarrhoea and prevent the infection spreading to other calves. Treated calves have also been shown to require fewer antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatments, as well as less rehydration therapy.

Managing fly populations.

We have had our first cases of Summer Mastitis and New Forest eye which is unusually early. These diseases have been traditionally seen from August onwards and this suggests that the level of fly challenge could be unusually high this year.

The most effective approach to managing flies on any farm is to treat early and maintain cover for the entire season with regular re-treatments. Delaying the first treatment until fly populations reach nuisance levels can have a dramatic effect on the number of flies you'll see on your farm, since as temperatures increase so does the breeding rate of flies. For example, at 15°C, adult stable flies only lay around one egg per day, but once the

temperature reaches 26°C, an adult will lay over 26 eggs every day. Over its lifetime, an adult female stable fly will lay less than 30 eggs at 15°C, but over 700 eggs when the temperature rises above 25°C. Treating early before temperatures rise will have a knock-on benefit for the remainder of the season in controlling fly populations.

Treating cattle for flies is also only part of the story. In order to really get on top of the problem, it is essential to identify breeding sites from around the farm.

- Treat or remove manure heaps, urine-soaked bedding and slurry lagoons
- Clean all effluent drains and organic pits
- Consider chemical treatment of fly resting areas e.g. posts, window frames and lights
- Keep cattle away from wet, boggy areas where flies breed
- Consider alternative bedding rather than straw for housed cattle

Pour-on fly control products such as Butox® SWISH are effective at killing flies which land on cattle and will help to manage fly populations, particularly when used in conjunction with the measures outlined so far. Butox SWISH is the longest lasting pour-on product available for cattle, providing up to 8-10 weeks fly control and 4 weeks midge control.

Fly control products only kill flies once they land on treated animals, so if measures are not taken to reduce breeding sites, fly populations will still rise when weather conditions favour breeding. This means it is important to keep fly treatments up to date.

Butox Swish – Special Prices.

250ml - £14.13 (8 cows).

1 Litre – £46.73 (33 cows).

2.5 Litre - £103.89 (83 cows).

12.0 Litre plus applicator - £415.54 (400 dose pack).

All prices excluding Vat.

CHEAP Ivermectin Pour-On!

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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