

THREE RIVERS VETERINARY GROUP

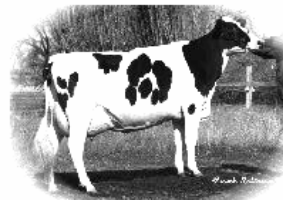
FARM ANIMAL PRACTICE

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CATTLE PRACTICE

SEPTEMBER 2010 NEWSLETTER.



This year has produced many challenges with regard to the weather. The drought conditions have now been superseded by a wet August. There are implications with regard to parasitic disease and the availability of good quality dry straw.

DEFRA – plans changes to AI, ET and Scanning.

In a move which is widely regarded as a dumbing down of regulations and qualifications, Defra plans to alter the law with regard to qualifications for AI, ET and ultrasound scanning.

If DEFRA's plans come to fruition UK qualifications and courses for approved AI, ET and ultrasound operators will no longer be required. Instead a European system which is very loose and does not require verification of competency will come into force. This has serious implications with regard to animal welfare and the quality of service provided in these areas.

The UK veterinary profession has spent years upgrading these technicians and developing a high standard of competence and supervision. These changes could open the door for 'cowboy' operators and farmers would need to be very cautious about who they allowed to work on their animals.

DEFRA state that this is because they have to comply with European legislation, the same argument they used as a reason for contracting out TB testing. One cannot help thinking that blaming Europe is an easy excuse for draconian cost cutting in vital areas of animal health and welfare.

The veterinary profession is making strong representations to prevent this change; farmers should ensure that their views on this subject are heard before it is too late.

EU, EEDA funding – take advantage of it whilst it lasts!

The current cost cutting, which may yet get worse, highlights the value of the funding currently at our disposal. It is unlikely that this will be repeated and we want all our farmers to have the maximum advantage from it.

We have funding available in the following areas:

- DairyCo mastitis plan - 65% funding.
- Individual farmer/stockman disease advice and information sessions – 100% funding.
- Workshops for up to 12 people – if you have a topic please contact us and we will try to arrange it – 100% funding.
- Funding for farmers meetings – 100% funding.

Worms, liver fluke and flies!

The period of drought and hot weather may lull everyone into a false sense of security regarding all these parasites.

However they have all been biding their time until the rain arrived and then hatched in record levels!

We expect a massive larval hatch following the rain in August. The worm life cycle requires a 3 week pre-patent period; so clinical disease can be expected from late August onwards. Treat all your youngstock **NOW** for gut worms and lungworm and all adult stock for lungworm (unless vaccinated with Huskvac).

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The snails that carry liver fluke can survive easily in dry conditions and then continue their cycle when the wet weather returns so ensure that you treat all your stock in the Autumn.

It is apparent during our farm visits that those farms which are using Butox Swish have the best fly control. Butox Swish has now been shown to be rain-fast which makes a big difference.

Calf Scour – two persistent causes -- Coccidiosis and Cryptosporidium.

Some of the common causes of calf scour such as Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E.Coli can be easily controlled by vaccinating the dam in late pregnancy.

Preventing scour due to coccidiosis and Cryptosporidium is a much more difficult task. Both of these organisms are protozoan and this makes control more difficult.

Cryptosporidium.

75% of cattle units have this organism, what it requires is the right environment to cause disease. The disease is infectious to humans and first exposure to the organism is likely cause disease whatever the person's age.

The organism thrives in calf housing which allows a high level of calf to calf contact or in group reared calves. Hygiene and cleanliness are essential to prevent the disease spreading. Affected calves are usually 1 to 2 weeks old and the signs are profuse watery green or pale diarrhoea, depression, poor appetite and weight loss. Signs last for about 14 days and are unresponsive to antibiotic treatment; the use of re-hydration products helps to prevent mortality. High numbers of infective organisms are shed and the disease is easily spread. Halofuginone (Halocur) can be used as a preventative treatment but it is only effective when combined with stringent hygiene and biosecurity.

Coccidiosis.

The incidence of coccidiosis in the UK is estimated at about 33%, however many of these infections are subclinical which result in poor growth rates without clinical disease. The diarrhoea results from damage to the gut lining which prevents the normal absorption of nutrients from the gut. Calves suffer a set back in their growth and

may be permanently stunted in adult life as a result. There are two options with regard to the control of coccidiosis:

- In-feed coccidiostats fed for 28 days (Deccox).
- Oral administration of a coccidiocide to destroy the coccidia and prevent coccidiosis. The most important part of this method of control is the timing of the treatment. The calf must have had time to develop an immunity to coccidiosis before the coccidia are destroyed otherwise they will develop the infection again. So the best time to treat is after the infection has become established but before the clinical signs of the disease have developed. The timing of the treatment therefore varies from farm to farm and needs veterinary advice. Outbreaks of coccidiosis at pasture are not that uncommon and pasture management is important. Most contaminated pastures have been overused for calves and would benefit from being grazed by older stock which are immune to clean it up.

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.*

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.

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) - **£142.28 + Vat.**