



White Hills Surgery, Sibford
Road, Hook Norton, Banbury,
OXON OX15 5DG

Tel: 01608 730085

Fax: 01608 730439

www.hooknortonvets.co.uk

JANUARY 2011

FARM NEWSLETTER

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO ALL OUR CLIENTS!

In November, Sam wrote his last (and first!) Newsletter and this month it is my turn. This January will be my last month at Hook Norton and marks four and a half years of you all tolerating me remarkably well!! Many thanks for all your help and support along the way, you have made it very difficult to leave. I wish you all good luck with your businesses and plans for the future. Keep going! **Helen.**

My replacement, **Jim Adams**, starts at the beginning of January and is looking forward to meeting you all. He is an experienced farm vet who qualified from Liverpool 4 years ago and after 2 ½ years working in Abergavenny, in Wales, has recently been travelling - spending 3 months

working in the USA and 3 months in New Zealand.

CATTLE

LIVER FLUKE

The relatively dry autumn season has allowed many of you to prolong your grazing season.

Whilst conditions have not seemed too friendly for development of liver fluke, we have recently diagnosed many cases of liver fluke in sick cattle. This indicates that a sub-clinical level of infection will be present in many other herds.

If your cattle are failing to thrive, or have not been housed in the best of body conditions, it may be worth submitting a faeces sample to the practice for examination, or asking us to blood sample some of the animals. Generally it is noticeable in store cattle, who are not showing sufficient daily live weight gain, or in suckler cows who look thinner than usual at weaning.

PNEUMONIA

We have seen numerous cases of pneumonia in all shapes and sizes of cattle in December. No doubt this will continue as the weather warms up.

It is worth emphasising again the importance of prompt treatment. If one animal has a snotty nose and a cough, many more will be developing the disease. The only way to identify these animals is to take **ALL** their temperatures:

Cattle with Temperatures > 39.5°C, 103°F, **have pneumonia.** These cattle need to be injected with an anti-inflammatory and an antibiotic ASAP.

Cattle with Temperatures < 39.5°C, 103°F, **do not have pneumonia**, but should be protected with a jab of **Tetroxy LA** to prevent infection spread.

Please ring the practice for advice when you see symptoms of coughing or snotty noses. A failure to treat promptly and protect others in the group, leads to an uneconomical level of condition loss.

DAIRY CATTLE

METACAM

Following the meeting last month, it is clear that our dairy farmers already understand the importance of using an anti-inflammatory in mastitis cases, with most regularly using **Finadyne** for severe cases or cases with a hot quarter.

The findings from the studies published, indicate that use of **Metacam** in less severe mastitis cases, results in an improved reduction in SCC, as well as a reduced culling rate of affected cattle. This latter finding is very interesting, as many of you will have a significant proportion of your cattle culled due to high SCC/repeat mastitis cases.

We would recommend use of **Metacam** in first line mastitis cases, as in the study, *and* in cases with a hot, hard quarter, where the cow is not sick in herself. In cases of toxic mastitis, or severe mastitis with a sick cow, Finadyne should still be used, as it has better anti-endotoxic effects. Both drugs can be administered intravenously or sub-cutaneously.

TB TESTING

Defra are continuing to carry out most short-interval tests, ie. 6monthly tests or 60day tests. However, the information being sent to farmers seems to be very confused, so please check with your Defra office who is meant to be carrying out the test before you book us in.

SHEEP

LAMBING

The lambing season is underway! Be prepared, and

order your lambing products ahead of time.

Remember that we have a lambing/caesarean/post-mortem (!) room available for difficult lambings, which will avoid you having to experience a visit charge.

ABORTIONS

The approach to lambing also inevitably brings abortion outbreaks.

If your flock experiences more than 2% of ewes aborting, an investigation needs to be undertaken. This will involve submitting a sample of the cleansing and an aborted lamb to the VLA. This is definitely value for money, as a diagnosis of Enzootic Abortion and subsequent injection of **Oxytetracycline** to all ewes, can reduce the severity of the abortion storm.

Remember the importance of biosecurity in all cases:

Do not allow pregnant women contact with your pregnant sheep, regardless of how small their hands!

Isolate all aborted ewes ASAP and DO NOT foster any ewe lambs onto these aborted ewes, as Enzootic Abortion can spread to neonatal lambs.

LAMBING LISTS

Finally, a reminder that lambing lists are available in the Farm

Shop and on-line at www.hooknortonvets.co.uk or by e-mail : hnvs@hotmail.com.

This is a very useful aide-memoire for all your requirements before and during lambing.

Please make sure that you give the surgery at least 24 hours' notice of your order and, if you wish to take advantage of the 5% discount offered for collection of your order, you must notify the Practice of your intention to do this at the time of placing your orders and be prepared to pay at the time of collection.