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FARM NEWSLETTER

MEETING DIARY DATES

Livestock Health South-East
have organised two meetings
at The Horse & Groom,
Milcombe, on :

“Latest Thinking on Infectious Disease Control in Cattle”

Timings are:

**11am -2pm:
Weds 7th April 2010**

**7pm -9pm:
Weds 21st April 2010**

You will need to register in
advance by ringing **07549
843380**. At these meetings we
will also explain how the LASER
programme works - also see:

www.laserlivestock.org.co.uk

With Spring just around the
corner (?) we will concentrate
this month on an action list for
turnout for both Cattle &
Sheep

CATTLE

1. BTv8

We recommend ALL breeding
stock are given a booster and
all other stock who haven't
yet started the course need a
double-dose 3 weeks apart.

2. Leptospira Booster

Best again given pre-turnout
as the disease is most virulent
in the Spring and early
Summer.

Remember youngstock over 6
months old need a double-
dose 3 weeks apart.

3. BVD Booster

May be given at turnout or
housing - depending on farm
protocol; but for breeding
animals, it is best boosted
BEFORE the breeding season
e.g. suckler cows.

4. Bravoxin 10 (Clostridial Disease)

Adult stock needs a booster in
the Spring; youngstock need a
double-dose.

5. Huskvac (lungworm vaccine)

The double-dose course (4
weeks apart) needs to be
completed 2 weeks prior to
turnout for best results.

6. STAGGERS

We anticipate a major
problem this Spring with a late
surge of lush grass growth (??)
Remember cattle do not store
magnesium, so need an

adequate daily intake – best
achieved by :

a) **magnesium bolus** for suckler
cows;

b) **Admag** in the water for dairy
cows.

Supplementation by the feed
may be adequate but ad lib
access to minerals high in
magnesium can be risky due
to variable intakes.

7. Mineral Boli

Cosecure & Agrimin Boluses
are best given at turnout for
season-long protection at
grazing. Remember these do
not supply Magnesium (see
above).

8. Worm & Fluke Control

All cattle should have been dosed
at housing (?) but if there is any
doubt, dose at turnout to
prevent pasture contamination.
For youngstock consider long-
acting preparations e.g. **Boli** or
Cydetin L.A. injection. Contact
the surgery if you require further
details.

9. Fly Control

Fly tags can be applied at
turnout as they give 5 months
protection. Alternatively, the
pour-ons give up to two
months protection and also
control lice infestation.

10. T.B. Testing

Are you up to date with your
T.B. test? If unsure, check with
your local Ministry office so

that they can be done before they become less handleable.

11. General Maintenance

Have all cows been pregnancy tested and all youngstock dehorned and castrated?

Contact the surgery to arrange if not.

SHEEP

1. BTV8

- All breeding stock require a booster this Spring (ewes and rams).

- Lambs may be protected for 14 weeks if the ewe was vaccinated pre-lambing with their **Heptavac P**.

- We advise vaccinating lambs and replacement breeding stock mid-summer.

2. Staggers

(Hypomagnemia)

- High risk pastures, e.g. new seeds and lush (Ryegrass) pastures are best dealt with by bolussing the ewes.

- On permanent pasture magnesium is best given via the concentrate food to the ewes for the first 4-6 weeks after turnout.

3. Coccidiosis

- Lambs 4-6 weeks old are at the highest risk;

- correct timing of treatment is very important and each farm will know their own previous history.

- We now have a new drench **Baycox Ovis** available as well as

Vecoxan drench and **Deccox** in feed.

- The benefit of **Baycox Ovis** is that it has a much longer duration of action (9 days) and is effective against all stages of the coccidia life-cycle.

- remember coccidial infections cause both clinical signs, e.g. scour and poor doers and sub-clinical effects, so it is best to drench the whole group. If unsure, a faecal sample from 4-6 of the group of lambs will give us an indication of the coccidial burden.

4. Worms

So far we have not picked up any worms in samples collected from lambs but this is about to change!

Please be vigilant for the risk of *Nematodirus* which could be explosive if conditions are correct, e.g. mild and wet.

- Remember *Nematodirus* is sensitive to all the wormer groups **but** none have a long-lasting effect.

5. New Wormer - ZOLVIX (Monepantel): SHEEP ONLY

This is a completely new product and class of wormer from any of the others and is 99.9% effective against Roundworms. This 4th group will be called the Orange 4AD group and is recommended for use in:

- a) bought in sheep to prevent introducing resistant Roundworms;
- b) a midseason dose for all ewes and lambs;
- c) in flocks where resistance is a problem.

Zolvix has a 7 day withdrawal and is available from the Farm Shop now with a new revolutionary application gun system. We will organise a meeting and demonstration of this product and the new drenching system in April/May.

6 Joint Ill in Lambs

If you are having a problem this season, the VLA are undertaking research into this condition, so please contact Steve at the surgery to update you about this.