



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

Tel: 01608 730085

Fax: 01608 730439

www.hooknortonvets.co.uk

MAY 2010

FARM NEWSLETTER

CATTLE

EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER

All animals destined for human consumption must be subject to a veterinary ante-mortem inspection to ensure the animal is healthy before it enters the food chain. On-farm emergency slaughter is allowed for an:

'otherwise healthy animal' that has 'suffered an accident that prevented its transport to slaughterhouse for welfare reasons'.

This is the exact wording according to the Food Standards Agency Meat Hygiene Service. The food-chain information requirements have been amended to make it clear the conditions that must be satisfied to allow emergency/on-farm slaughter. You will be asked to give details about the accident and its occurrence and we confirm

this and record time of slaughter.

If the animal does not meet these requirements it must be disposed of via the Fallen Stock Scheme.

KEEP BRITAIN FREE FROM BRUCELLOSIS!

Farmers and vets have been working together to keep Great Britain free of Brucellosis since 1985! To keep our country free of this devastating disease, you have a legal obligation to report all abortions in cattle to your local Animal Health office. **Every abortion or premature calving which takes place less than 271 days after service or 265 days after implanting/transferring an embryo MUST be reported, whether the calf is born dead or alive.**

Testing is FREE and compensation paid if infection is confirmed. Samples will be collected by one of our farm vets and sent to the VLA for screening. We can organise testing for other causes of abortion at the same time which would be of benefit to your farm. The visit and blood sampling will be covered by Animal Health and mean that you then only pay for any further testing, e.g. Neospora, IBR, BVD or Leptospirosis.

TB TESTING

Just a reminder that we are busy with TB testing at the

moment - with everyone wanting to get tests done before turn-out. Please remember to book well in advance, as there is no guarantee that we will have a vet available for the days you request if you call at the last minute.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Are you vaccinating effectively? Are you vaccinating at all?

Leptospirosis can cause a variety of problems including abortion, milk drop and infertility. It is an extremely common disease in the UK and can be controlled well with a proper vaccination regime. Herds which fail to vaccinate heifers before breeding may well suffer reduced fertility and any individual animals which fail to receive a full vaccination regime are likely to suffer from the disease.

Remember to give a double-dose 3 weeks apart to all new animals and a single booster to cows and bulls previously vaccinated.

All heifers should be vaccinated prior to breeding and not just prior to turn out. This will control the disease further and reduce the risk of low fertility in heifers. To prevent Leptospirosis in heifers, the vaccine should be given from 6 months old, thereby preventing carrier animals and to reduce shedding of Leptospirosis.

SHEEP

NEMATODIRUS

With a very cold winter (hopefully) behind us, it is likely that Nematodirus may cause some problems as the weather warms up. Eggs deposited by last year's lambs will have survived over the winter and massive numbers will all hatch out as the temperature stays above 10 degrees during the days. When the winter has been mild, this hatching can take place over several weeks and the challenge for young lambs is not as great; however this year we anticipate a mass emergence which may well overwhelm the lambs.

This unpleasant worm is a serious threat to lambs which are grazing on pasture on which you grazed lambs during the previous year. Problems occur normally between 6 and 12 weeks of age and can cause symptoms from: apparent sudden death, to a nasty black scour and ill thrift. Triplets and lambs on first time ewes or very old ewes that have limited milk also tend to suffer the most. There has been no recorded resistance in Nematodirus to white wormers and so they are the drug of choice. A combined Nematodirus and Coccidiosis problem can make matters even worse. So this is a timely reminder to be on top of your worming programme for lambs this spring.

ZOLVIX SHEEP WORMER

We have organized two demonstrations of this new wormer and drenching system on Tuesday 25th May 2010. Clients to the North are invited to Church Farm, Oxhill, CV35 0RA - courtesy of Heritage Farms - from 12 noon - 2.30pm; clients to the South are invited to Montague Farm, Hethe, Bicester, OX27 8EU - courtesy of the Elkington Family - from 4.30 - 6.30pm.

Refreshments will be provided at both venues and you are welcome to attend at either. Please let our Large Animal Reception know which you choose (for numbers). The format will be a rolling demonstration of the new drenching system as well as a short presentation on the new wormer. There will also be a short presentation by Sterimatic on injection equipment for vaccines, selection and maintenance.

We are hoping as many of our sheep clients as possible will attend one of these talks/demonstrations as both the product and the delivery system are revolutionary.

FLOCKCHECK 2010

FlockCheck is available again this year from Intervet/Schering-Plough. This FREE diagnostic service enables us to test your flock for enzootic abortion and/or toxoplasmosis.

In 2009, we saw 81% of submitted samples testing positive for either enzootic abortion, toxoplasmosis or

both. With lamb prices still good for 2010, it has never been more important to ensure that any cause of abortion/barren ewes in the flock is discovered, so vaccination with **Enzovax** and/or **Toxovax** can begin as appropriate.

The lab work will be free so the only cost is that of the vet taking the blood and if you bring 6-7 aborted/barren ewes to the surgery you won't even have to pay a visit fee! This is a very good service to take advantage of this spring!