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## SEPTEMBER 2011

### FARM NEWSLETTER

#### **MORETON SHOW**

Is on **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2011** and should be a great day out. We hope to see you there at our stand.

#### **DIARY DATE**

Client Meeting on 'Control of Fluke in Commercial Cattle and Sheep Enterprises' on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011 7.30pm** Horse and Groom Pub, Milcombe, OX15 4RS - sponsored by Norbook Animal Health.

#### **CATTLE**

##### **SUCKLER COWS**

Due to the dry weather, consider weaning your suckler cows early so that they can be fed separately from the cows and growth can be maintained.

However, remember to complete any respiratory vaccination course e.g. **Risposal 4** before weaning and worm at the same time. We can P.D. suckler cows 4 weeks (one calendar month) after the bulls are removed using the scanner and this may well help to manage the non-pregnant animals rather than carry on feeding for pregnancy. Weaned heifers can be P.D'd at the same interval or injected with **Enzoprost** from 2 weeks after bull removal to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

##### **NEW 'SURECALF' CATEGORY AT AUTUMN CALF SALES**

Will feature a category of spring born suckler calf - certified under this scheme as vaccinated against viral pneumonia.

We would recommend all calves are vaccinated at weaning even if not going to sales – but contact the Surgery for details of the 'SureCalf' requirements.

##### **MILK FEVER**

Autumn calves coming off grass are prone to Milk Fever so, if at all possible, buffer feed with a high magnesium containing mineral. Cows in condition score over 3.5 are more at risk as are high yielding multiparous dairy cows. For those individuals and groups at higher risk, oral Calcium can be supplied prior to the risk period.

**Bovicalc** is an oral supplement bolus containing Calcium Chloride and Calcium Sulphate. It is a new product on the market and will considerably reduce the incidence of Milk Fever. It is best used immediately prior to calving but can also be given to clinical cases to reduce the risk of recurrence, following prior treatment with injectable Calcium.

Preventative strategies involving the use of such products as Bovicalc will reduce the problems linked to Milk fever, e.g. it increases the risk of Dystocia (calving problems) by three times and increases the risk of Mastitis in the following lactation by 8 times. Contact the Surgery for further details of Bovicalc.

##### **LUNGWORM**

Beware of coughing cattle in September - especially after wet weather - it could signal the onset of lungworm. Treat with pour-on wormers at the first signs or contact the Surgery for help. Remember it is not just first season grazers that are at risk, it can also affect second season grazing cattle and adult cattle. It will usually affect more than one animal, so if only one is coughing, it may be something else, e.g. Fog Fever.

## SHEEP

### ZOLVIX

We had a very informative and interesting meeting in July, on the use of strategic worming of sheep and the S.C.O.P.S. principles of sustainable worm control with Novartis. We hope to repeat the meeting in the autumn for those who missed it last time. One of the important messages was to use Zolvix once a year on lambs and ewes to reduce the chance of wormer resistance on your farm. This is the ideal time of year for lambs post-weaning and ewes and rams pre-tupping.

### WORM RESISTANCE

Novartis are keen to find farms that might have resistance to the Ivermectin class of wormers, so if you have been using this class of wormer, e.g. Cydectin, Noromectin, Vectin, Dectomax or Depidex- to name a few - and have been disappointed with the results, please get in touch with Steve at the surgery. Novartis will pay for the testing of the faeces samples pre and post worming plus an incentive as well!

### ABORTION VACCINE

Hopefully all of you have had your enzootic abortion vaccine this year as we ordered plenty in advance.

If not, then please contact the Farm Shop as soon as possible.. The Toxovax situation is that supplies should be available from mid-September, so as long as you are not tupping until October, it is worth ordering now and administering it to your replacements. Please allow at least 2 weeks before tupping.

### WEANED LAMBS

With the price of lambs this year, it is a small cost to pay to vaccinate them with **Ovivac P** which will protect against Pulpykidney and Clostridial diseases as well as Pastuerella. 2 doses are required 4 weeks apart and, as there is zero meat withhold, it is worth doing all of the lambs - even if you are drawing some off for slaughter, because it is usually the best ones that succumb!

### RAMS

Tupping time soon! Have they all had their M.O.T? I.e: feet, dagging, worming, vaccinated - and started feeding to maximise sperm production. If not, get going! If you are concerned about any of their fertility, we can do a semen test at the Surgery.

## GAMEBIRDS

Most will be out in the release pens by now, and many on the wander!! It is important to worm young poult between 8 and 12 weeks old to prevent Gapes and other worm problems. This can be done with:

- 1) **Flubenvet** in the food, for which you need a prescription from us but it is the easiest way. It needs to be fed for at least 7 days.
- 2) In the water, using **Levamisole** or **Panacur**. For this to be effective, you need control of the drinking points, so it is best done in the pens. Only 2 -3 doses are required. Please contact the Surgery for details.