



White Hills Surgery,
Sibford Road, Hook Norton,
Banbury, OXON OX15 5DG
Tel: 01608 730085
Fax: 01608 730439
www.hooknortonvets.co.uk

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FARM NEWSLETTER

DIARY DATE - MORETON SHOW

After the success of last year, we will once again be having a stand at the Moreton-in-Marsh show on **Saturday 3rd September 2011**.

Everyone is welcome to pop by to say hello, grab a drink and see our displays – some of our displays are interactive and should amuse both adults and children!

PRODUCT UPDATE – TOXOVAC

Subsequent to the printing of the July Newsletter, Intervet-Schering Plough have advised us that there will be no deliveries of Toxovac until the beginning of October. This is due to an error in

temperature control of the container in which the vaccines were transported and hence a whole batch has had to be disposed of. Intervet is attempting to rectify the problem ASAP but the earliest date for supply is the very end of September.

TB UPDATE – DNA TAGGING

From now on, all TB reactors will have to be DNA tagged. This is performed by the LVI (vet) reading the TB test when the animal is classified as a reactor. This allows DEFRA to trace all TB reactors, helping to prevent TB fraud which has been documented in certain parts of the country (i.e. swapping of ordinary ear tags from high value animals into lower value animals!). DNA tagging does not add significantly to the time taken to perform the test – it simply means the vet will have to place an ear tag and at the end of the test, the evidence bag (containing DNA samples from the centre of the ear tag) will be sealed and signed by both the vet and the farmer.

CATTLE

SUCKLER HERD P.D. SESSIONS

P.D.'ing beef cattle is best performed greater than 35days (with scanner) after the bull has been removed.

The main benefit to early pregnancy diagnosis is that any cows not in calf (NIC) can be separated and, if appropriate, sent for slaughter. It will prevent use of what is likely to be expensive forages used on a non-productive animal.

Any heifer calves that have been running with the bull should also be injected with prostaglandin from 2 weeks after removal of the bull to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Use of prostaglandins early in pregnancy (less than 3 months) is most effective and has the fewest complications.

SHEEP

WEANING AND WORMS

If grass is in short supply, consider weaning lambs early as ewe's milk production is likely to be poor. Ewes can be placed on the poorer grazing as long as some good grazing is reserved for flushing of the ewes 2

weeks prior to the introduction of tups. At weaning, lambs should be wormed (+/- treated for Fluke) – **Zolvix** is ideal for this use. Once separated, the lambs can be moved to good grazing or be fed concentrates to fatten them.

EWE MANAGEMENT

As noted above, 2 weeks prior to tupping, ewes should be moved onto better grazing to give them an increasing plane of nutrition (also known as flushing) to optimise ovulation and conception and thus next year's lamb numbers.

It is also wise over the summer months prior to flushing to check all the ewes' teeth, feet and udder and then separate/remove any which have broken teeth and also those which have been previously noted as having only one working teat, history of vaginal prolapse, frequent foot problems etc. This will optimise production and potential profits for next year.

BOUGHT IN EWE LAMBS & THAVES

Many of you will be purchasing your replacement stock this month.

On arrival, please isolate and put into quarantine for 1 month. On arrival

the sheep should receive a dose of **Zolvic (orange) wormer** +/- a fluke drench which can be given at the same time, along with vaccinations e.g. 1st Heptavac P and Enzootic abortion vaccine.

After 4 weeks, before mixing with other stock, they should receive a dose of clear wormer e.g. **Closamectin Sheep Injection** which will also treat Sheep Scab and Fluke and their 2nd dose of Heptavac P. This regime will ensure that you don't introduce resistant worms onto your farm, don't introduce Fluke onto your farm, will control external parasites e.g. Sheep Scab and lice and will ensure they have received the correct vaccinations so they can have a long and productive life.

This same protocol should be followed for rams being introduced into the flock +/- a check-over by the vet.

GOATS

WORMING OF GOATS

Any goats kept outside or partly outside require regular worming. Because they naturally graze from bushes and trees, they have developed very little natural immunity to

intestinal worms. Consequently, they need worming much more frequently than sheep or cattle – goats usually require worming 5-6 times per year, every year. They also have much faster metabolism than sheep or cattle and as a result usually require a higher dose of wormer to be effective. Please ask a farm vet about worming of goats if you are unsure of what and how much to use – as with sheep, it is important not to under-dose as this can lead to problems with resistance.

SARCOPTIC MANGE

This is a fairly common skin complaint in goats – it is transmitted by both direct and indirect contact. Signs of Sarcoptic Mange are itching with red, thickened skin with hair-loss over the head, neck and body (often across the top of the neck and shoulders). Treatment is relatively simple – injections of **Dectomax** at double the sheep dose rate is most effective.