



### **A New Era**

We were thrilled to see so many of you at Frocester Cricket Club on the last day of July for what was a warm and cheerful evening. We said farewell to Paul Marsh the foot trimmer, who is leaving us to pastures new, quite literally! He will be greatly missed and we wish him all the best in his new job managing a large flock up in the Cotswolds. Some of you may have also met Richard Jones the new foot trimmer who will be out on farm as we speak. He joins us from a strong farming background and is looking forward to meeting you all soon.

After nearly four decades Chris is stepping down as senior partner and I know he was flattered and touched to see so many of you turn out to bid him well. He is by no means retiring in the traditional sense (as neither will any of you) and he will still be around both at the Practice and in the field. He will however be dedicating more time to leisurely activities, fishing amongst them.

### **One Swallow Does Not A Summer Make**

As we approach late Summer having had some very variable weather we need to be extra vigilant over parasites.

#### **Lungworm/Husk**

Due to wet conditions after hot, dry spells there is going to be a high burden on pasture of Lungworm (*Ostertagia*). The development of the larvae and their migration up onto the grass is arrested in dry weather. This means that they are all queuing up to mature and climb onto the grass when there is a break with wet weather. Huge numbers of larvae can suddenly be ingested and quickly produce clinical lungworm. Unvaccinated young stock at pasture are most at risk. For dairy heifers this is in their first grazing season but for beef calves this will be their second grazing season. Adults can show signs if on very heavily contaminated pasture. The disease arrives suddenly, with very little warning and can have very severe impacts.

Look out for:

- Frequent coughing, even at rest
- Quick onset severe diarrhoea with weight loss across a group
- Milk drop in adult milking cows
- Usually a normal temperature in early disease

If you are unsure then get the animals looked at but early treatment with an anthelmintic is required. Severe and long lasting damage can occur in a very short space of time. Macrolytic

lactones are all effective – this class includes Doramectin and Ivermectin however these can often not be used in milking cows. Appropriate stocking and knowledge of pasture risk is vital along with incorporating vaccination into farm protocol.

#### **Fluke**

With the wet and warm weather recently the snail habitat will have also been increased. Extra vigilance needs to be taken with Fluke treatments at housing but also watch out for clinical cases of fluke in the future months. If there are fields you know are high risk then make efforts to fence cattle away from damp, water logged pasture and open streams.

#### **Fly Control and New Forest Disease**

The impact of flies has been a serious problem this year with the warm weather with intermittent showers a few weeks ago allowing a huge hatch to occur. They seem as persistent as ever.

Control of flies is a difficult issue. Control of environment is as important as on the animals. Whilst pour-on products are the most commonly used there are ear tags also on the market. Application at the correct dose and frequency is essential to provide cover. Environment can be well managed, especially for breeding sites. This includes good waste management on farm and drainage especially at pasture. Buildings that are

well ventilated will also reduce proliferation of fly eggs. There are also products available for painting onto buildings that have come from the pig industry. Well worth investigating!

**New Forest eye disease** has also been common recently. The disease is a bacterial infection of the outer layer of the cornea producing an ulcer. This is nearly always central in the eye and at first can be seen as small crater on the cornea surface. The more obvious clinical signs are:

- Tear production
- Partial closing of the eye and some animals will seek out shade to get out of the bright sunlight which causes pain
- White/cloudy spot

Treatment is straightforward and very effective if done in the early stages of the disease.

- Topical ophthalmic ointments are good but a fiddle to use. Wipe the eye dry first to allow the ointment to stick better
  - Usually 2 treatments 48 hours apart is all that is needed. (Opticlox)
- Injecting antibiotics into the eyelid margin space is very effective but it requires one of the farm veterinary team to do it. Animals must be well restrained to get it accurately done
- In non-milking animals Micotil injection systemically is very effective. Micotil can only be used by a veterinary surgeon and so would

need a visit for one of us to administer the drug.

The most important aspect of all eye diseases is that the actual healing process makes the eye look worse before it looks better. The cornea has no blood vessels so healing occurs by blood capillaries growing in from the edge of the cornea and this makes the surface of the eye look angry and bright red.

Eventually these vessels start to regress and form a ring around a central white scar. As long as the following is seen then the eye is healing:

- Tear production reduces or ceases
- The eye opens up fully
- You can see the healing process (picture)

These cattle do not need any further treatment. If treatment is early then full recovery is possible. However, if treatment is delayed then the eye may never heal fully and leave the animal with varying degrees of visual impairment. Any rapid swelling/craters needs to be assessed as can be from injuries or cancerous growths not NFD.



Healing Eye with Red Blood Vessel Migration

### **Warble Fly – Are you importing animals?**

As of April this year, warble fly is no longer Notifiable in cattle in England and Wales. The legislation (Warble Fly (England and Wales) Order 1982 and amendments) has been revoked – it is no longer a requirement to report suspicion of warble fly to your regional APHA office. Since no new cases of warble fly have been disclosed in the UK since 1996, and similar successful eradication programmes exist in many other EU Member States, the risk of re-establishment in the UK is considered negligible.

However, the current post-import requirements for warble fly (treatment of imported cattle with notification of this to APHA) will remain in place at this time – i.e. warble fly treatment within 24 hours of arrival, report to AHPA and hold official records for inspection. Don't be caught out with the changes.

#### **Reminders**

**Richard Jones is starting as the new foot trimmer**

You can reach him on all the same contact details as before to book in trimming work  
07713 395356

#### **Training**

We will be running an AI training course again in the Autumn. This can be tailored to suit those new to DIY AI or those after a refresher course. Please ring the practice soon to let us know if you, or a member of your team are interested so we can plan how many courses to run