



Dairy and Beef Turnout

With the current weather, on the whole, being so miserable it is difficult to start planning for the spring but it is on fact only just around the corner! We hope that those of you who were under water are finally on dry land and life isn't quite so difficult. For those of you who graze even a small proportion of the herd now is the time to start planning for turnout and prepare cattle against the risks that grazing entails: -

Lungworm

Lungworm will be a guaranteed threat on farms if it has ever been seen in the past, no matter how long ago. Youngstock in their first grazing season are at high risk of developing severe clinical signs (coughing, loss of body condition, increased respiratory rate and difficulty breathing with severe casing dying in 24-48 hours). Adult cows that have never been exposed can also show milk drop. There is still no safe way to predict this disease so we **cannot** tell you when to worm the cattle to give confident protection. In the practice, we saw record levels of lungworm outbreaks in the last grazing season so don't get caught out – outbreaks are very costly so be ahead. A natural immunity develops in animals once



they have been exposed to low numbers but the only sure way is to vaccinate cattle due to be grazed for the first time BEFORE turnout.

When vaccinating with Huskvac:

- Vaccinate all cattle before their FIRST grazing season regardless of age
- Course of 2 doses 4 weeks apart
- 2nd dose 2 weeks prior to turnout (start the course a minimum of 6 weeks prior to turnout!)
- Keep the vaccine in the fridge prior to use and GENTLY mix the bottle to not kill larvae before administration orally
- Do not use any wormer for 2 weeks after
- Graze these animals on old permanent leys, avoid clean pasture
- Beware the purchased unvaccinated in calf or down calving heifer!

Leptospirosis

Despite some decline in prevalence, Lepto is still a common source of abortion, poor fertility and milk drop in herds with those that graze at the highest risk. However, year round housing is not a guaranteed safeguard due to the infection route. The bacteria are shed in milk and from the kidneys into urine and can cause:

- Reduced conception rate to as low as 15% in clinical outbreaks
- Decreased milk yield by 800 litres per lactation
- Higher abortion rates of 5%

It can cause 'flu like' symptoms in humans as well. The organism is present in:

- Persistently infected cows that shed despite vaccination (prevents clinical disease, not shedding)
- Contaminated water sources which can include all non-mains water sources
- Rat activity contaminating water and feed sources
- Possibly in very poor forages (Lepto can survive for six months in wet soil)
- Indirect contact with the bacteria from bought in animals or co-grazing animals increases likely infection:
 - o Buying in animals/Bull hiring/Sheep grazing/Open watercourse drinking

In line with the above facts a certain amount can be done to eliminate the risks but vaccination will be a vital part of any plan where Leptospirosis has been identified as a problem.

When vaccinating with Leptavoid-H:

- Primary course of 2 injections 4 weeks apart
- Ideally 2nd dose 2 or more weeks before turnout
- Annual herd booster again 2 weeks before turnout
- Vaccinate all animals breeding animals – i.e. heifers prior to first service too



Is it a problem on your farm? Do a BULK MILK TEST!

Blackleg

Clostridial diseases occur when livestock are at pasture ingesting soil contaminated grass. Blackleg is the most common disease for cattle and there is no warning and no particular scenario that we can advise about - Just vaccinate them! Initial vaccination courses of 2 doses of (given 4-6 weeks apart) will cover the whole

grazing season. Then a booster every 6 to 12 months gives continued immunity. Cattle can be vaccinated from as early as 2 weeks old but if the dam has had her booster 8 to 2 weeks prior to calving down then the calf will be covered until 12 weeks old.

Mastitis and SCC levels

Following on from last month's mastitis sample collection, this month we revisit sampling the bulk milk tank. This is another great tool in locating the cause of a SCC or bactoscan issues alongside individual cow samples. The test is based on the culture and identification of live bacteria in milk. It is therefore ESSENTIAL that for quality and accuracy of results, that the samples are taken and transported to the laboratory with the milk remaining cool. This will produce reports that can be trusted from which on farm decisions can be made.

SAMPLING INSTRUCTIONS FOR BACTERIAL COUNTS OF BULK MILK

1. Agitate the bulk tank for 2-3 minutes and check that it's cool (4°C). Using the SPECIAL POTS PROVIDED by the lab, a minimum of 20mls is required for analysis. Sample and label individual tanks where necessary
2. Put the sample into the polythene bag and immediately transfer it to the polystyrene box, with two FROZEN ice bricks, one above and one below the sample. Refill the box with polystyrene chippings and seal with tape.
3. Bring the sample to the lab – even if you are travelling a short distance it is essential the sample is chilled.
4. For your collection kit please ring the practice on 01452 543 999 or 01452 541663

This INFORMATION can also be used for selective dry cow treatment.

Next Time....What It All Means – SCC and Mastitis

Cobactan MC Tubes!!

Please remember for those of you using Cobactan MC tubes please be aware of the changes to the Withdrawal Periods for both Milk and Meat as below due to an EU and UK licence merge:

Withdrawal Period	Cobactan MC (Old)	Cobactan MC (New)
Milk	4 Days	5 Days
Meat	2 Days	4 Days

Withdrawal Period	Cobactan MC + 2.5% Injection Combination (Old)	Cobactan MC + 2.5% Injection Combination (New)
Milk	4 Days	5 Days
Meat	5 Days	5 Days

Reminders

Drugs Collection

At Weekends, the duty vet has to be telephoned to authorise ALL medicines.

Please telephone ALL orders in advance, where possible on FRIDAY
Large Animal: 01452 543 999