



GAMEBIRD NEWSLETTER 2013

A Happy New Year to you all.

After the sometimes appalling weather conditions of the last summer, when some of you suffered significant losses, a new season is just around the corner with hopefully an improvement in weather and fortune.

Advance notice of meeting

On Wednesday 13th March at 6.30pm we are holding a meeting at the practice with a range of speakers and topics. This should be an interesting and informative meeting, refreshments also provided. More details to follow shortly.

Laying Flock

With the laying season not far away a health check of hens and cocks is important to avoid effects of a difficult season last year. Body condition was an issue in the autumn with poor grain quality and availability and possible mycotoxin risk and in some instances worm issues because of problems with supply of in feed wormer. Worming of stock and assessment of health looking for signs of sinusitis etc is important and for those who have suffered from Coronavirus nephrosis vaccinations should be considered.

Salmonella

A couple of years ago we highlighted the increase in Salmonella incidents identified within the practice, unfortunately this trend seems to have continued. Good bio-security, personal hygiene and disinfection around the unit should be standard practice, and essential to limit losses in Salmonella outbreaks, coupled with prompt submission of birds if any unexplained rise in mortality.

Rotavirus

The control of this important disease of the early rearing period, when losses can be significant, centres on hygiene, keeping birds warm to prevent huddling and well bedded with supportive therapy

of electrolytes, vitamins and in some instances antibiotics to help control any secondary bacterial infection. It is usually a problem of later hatches and frequently a result of an increasing challenge and a drop off in hygiene, maintaining good standards of hygiene as a matter of course will reduce the likelihood of disease , rather than making the changes after disease has struck!

Poult deliveries

Last year's conditions highlighted the need for good communication between game farmer and game keeper/ shoots. This is the period of most stress for the birds and hence coincides with the most problems that we see, typically 1-2 weeks after delivery. A good and trusting relationship will allow details of medications received during rear and as a minimum the make and size of feed pellet and watering system should allow provision for an easier transition on arrival. A scenario seen across all intensively reared species shows that multiple simultaneous changes will result in far greater check in growth and increase in disease incidence, than if these changes are managed over a period of time.

Post-Mortem Submissions and Site Visits

We carry out advisory visits during the season especially if recurrent intractable problems, please speak to one of us and finally just a reminder for post mortem submissions please phone in advance so that we can provide as an efficient service as possible.

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