



The recent weather has unfortunately returned back to wet and mild. Many of you will have turned out through desperation at diminishing food and straw supply and trying to avoid grass getting ahead of you rather than because pastures are actually dry enough underfoot. Ground work is going to have to go very smoothly to reduce the inevitable delay in silaging and impact on crop yields. Best of Luck to you all!

### Medicines Stewardship

Whilst there are many changes afoot regarding antibiotic use that will be discussed individually with you by your vet, I felt it was a prime time to review medicine use in general. We still see quite a lot of inappropriate use which will not only be exacerbating antibiotic resistance but also not harnessing the cost benefit of using the product. Let's take the opportunity to ensure we stop antibiotic resistance and get the most from our products using the following guidelines:

✓ **CORRECT PRODUCT** – Antibiotics are not always the answer and anti-inflammatory products may be more appropriate. If antibiotics are needed we need to use one that penetrates the organs of interest AND targets the group of bacteria that are involved.

✓ **CORRECT DOSE** – The dose rate for ALL products is different so needs to be checked each time. This requires:

- Accurate weight – animals are often heavier than estimated so use weigh bands or scales
- Correct ml of product per kg – some antibiotics work on concentration and some on time and so it is very important that the dose is correct to reach effect.

✓ **ALWAYS FINISH THE COURSE** - Antibiotics with LA in the name are one off injections e.g. Alamycin LA or PA dose Engemycin.

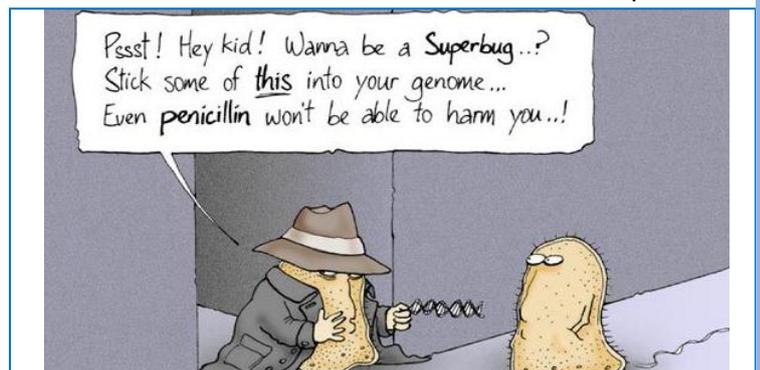
The rest are daily injection and have a **minimum 3 day course** – using a daily antibiotic just once exposes bacteria but does not kill them.

This, along with under dosing for weight is how bacteria develop resistance and are no longer killed by that antibiotic. Bacteria are also very good at transferring resistance genes or plasmids between each other and even to different species of bacteria – aren't they generous!

✓ **COMBINE NSAID AND ANTIBIOTICS** - Anti-inflammatory pain relief medicines (NSAIDs) are more flexible. Finadyne and Ketofen 10% can be used daily from 1 day up to a maximum of 3 days, whilst Metacam can be used once only covering for 48hrs. Maximum use of NSAID is 3 days as over this they can cause gastro-intestinal tract problems. Combining antibiotics with anti-inflammatories improves antibiotic action.

✓ **CORRECT ROUTE** – Different products go into the muscle (IM), under the skin (SC), into the vein (IV) or up the nostril (IN) as well as some that go into the ear base fat pad. The route is vital for the level of absorption specifically designed for each product. For example, the use of the fat pad is to ensure that the release of the product is slowed down (i.e. Cydectin LA) and also if these products were injected into muscle a residue will be found over 6 months later the head ultimately comes off!

✓ **CORRECT DISPOSAL** – Feeding antibiotic waste milk to calves promotes antibiotic resistance and bacterial infections in these young animals. Disposing of waste milk into the slurry or into water courses also has long term negative effects on bacterial resistance. Medicine bottles are to be disposed into yellow clinical bins for incineration to reduce environmental spread.



It was on a short-cut through the parlour that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.

## Pregnant TB Reactors

From 1<sup>st</sup> May, application can be made for the delayed removal of pregnant Reactors or Direct Contacts (DCs) that are due to calve within 60 days following their identification at a skin or blood test.

For some time, APHA have considered a delay for 28 days but this has now been extended to 60 days to reduce the need for on farm slaughter when cattle are too late in gestation to be transported. Farms will be offered advice about their eligibility when contacted as normal to arrange Reactor or DCs collection.

Upon a successful application for the retention of an animal to APHA, and the completion of a Veterinary Risk Assessment by APHA, the owner and vet will be required to complete declarations stating that biosecurity and isolation criteria can and will be met. Whilst this will not be a cost free exercise, there may be a handful of cases where it is relatively easy to comply with the isolation and biosecurity criteria and so it is a welcome change to the legislation. It is worth noting that, as per the current regulations, the 60 day interval for TB testing will not start until the last reactor leaves the farm and so retaining a heavily pregnant cow will delay testing intervals by up to 60 days – another factor to consider when deciding on the viability.



## Farm Bio-security

Many of you will reduce costs by sharing equipment and labour and we would hope that when helping out a neighbour everyone would thoroughly cleanse and disinfect their boots, clothing and vehicles to stop the transmission of disease both on and off farms. However, often this is not the case and there are strong links between this and the spread of diseases. Contractors including people and equipment, AI technicians, tanker drivers, nutritionists, consultants, vets and all visitors should all be adhering to strict disinfection protocols. It is amazing the number of people who walk past a disinfectant tub and brush even with a sign up.

As with all these things, you the farmers, will have to drive this initiative and demand that people disinfect before entering your premises as not everyone is as conscious of disease as they ought to be – over time hopefully the message will sink in. The gold standard protocol is of course, to disinfect when leaving a premises to stop spread from that farm anywhere else ensuring that you arrive at the next premises clean. With more and more knowledge regards the transmission of Johne's, BVD, IBR and other production limiting disease it is vital that we stop vector transmission between farms.

It is worth noting that the use of disinfectant on a heavily contaminated surface is of little effect:

- Remove organic material first - use brush and water for protective clothing or pressure washer/steam cleaner for equipment/vehicles
- Fresh disinfectant at the correct dilution for the product in use to disinfect clothing and boots
- Leave for "kill time" of product and then rinse off



Animals always get the blame for bringing in new disease but we need to look closer to home – speak to us about how to improve bio security and tips for getting people to adhere to it.

## Data Protection Laws (General Data Protection Regulation)

From 25th May 2018, new Data Protection Laws (GDPR) come into force which allow you to have more control over how your personal data is used and how you want to be contacted. Please find attached alongside this newsletter a copy of our Privacy Notice which explains this in more detail.

If you would like to continue to receive this newsletter and other communication from us, such as vaccine reminders and farm animal meeting or event information, please contact us either via:

- Email [farmteam@woodvet.co.uk](mailto:farmteam@woodvet.co.uk) – this will be our new email address for newsletters and invites
- Call the Farm Admin Team on 01452 543999
- Speak to the next vet out on farm with you

