



Turnout Conditions

Mastitis

The warmer, wetter weather in recent days has prompted a much needed grass growth spurt in some areas. However, the poor grass availability we have been experiencing predisposes ewes to mastitis.

Weeks of poor grazing adversely affects ewe milk production especially in peak lactation and hungry lambs damage teats in an effort to get as much milk as possible. Damaged teats or udder injuries increase the likelihood of bacterial infection as inflammation reduces the efficacy of the udders protective mechanisms.

Please monitor udders for any signs of acute or subclinical mastitis; **clinical signs may include:**

- Ewes refusing to allow lambs to suckle
- Ewes appearing lame on a hind leg – avoiding painful udders
- Reluctance to lie down
- Lower growth rates in lambs - below 200g /day or failing to hit 20kg by 8 weeks of age
- Swollen/red udders

Treatment:

- Continue to provide good quality forage where grass growth is insufficient & consider supplementing lambs with creep feed
- Stripping out the affected teat
- Daily Injectable antibiotic for 3 days minimum e.g. Amoxypen/Pen&Strep
- Anti inflammatory treatment with Finadyne for 3 days is required
- Drench with Ceto Phyton and 2 litres of water if ewes are not eating

Staggers

With the sudden growth in grass, we may start to see cases of Hypomagnesemia.

Fluke Treatment

For those of you with a known history of fluke on farm, a fluke treatment for ewes this spring should be a consideration. If not already treated, by administering a fluke drench now, we aim to reduce fluke egg output onto pasture – and so limit the fluke risk on pasture for summer.

Sheep are unable to store magnesium and therefore need a daily supply in their diet. Unfortunately, this burst of lush spring grazing is typically low in magnesium – meaning daily requirements may

not be met. In addition, young fresh grass is low in fibre and highly digestible, causing fast gut transit and less time for

magnesium absorption.

Cases of hypomagnesemia commonly occur within 4-6 weeks post lambing. As magnesium is also excreted in milk, cases often coincide with peak lactation and may present in conjunction with low grade hypocalcaemia.

Spring grazing should not be fertilised with Potash or slurry – this causes soils to become high in potassium & nitrogen which can interfere with magnesium absorption in the rumen – leading to higher risk of hypomagnesemia in grazing stock.

Clinical signs include:

- Uncoordinated/erratic gait
- Muscle twitching/involuntary muscle contractions
- Hypersensitive to touch/stimuli
- Down ewes / recumbent

Treatment:

- 80ml of warmed Magniject 9 under the skin (split volume over 2 sites)
- 10-20ml of Calciject 5 slowly into the vein (if possible or under the skin if not)
- Supplementing with good quality fibre forage (hay/straw) while at spring grass to aid slower gut transit



At this time of year we are concerned about chronic fluke infections – this means selecting a flukicide targeted against adult fluke .e.g. **Closantel / Nitroxylin / Oxyclozanide**. It is **not** appropriate to use Triclabendazole – this should be **reserved for acute fluke treatment in Autumn/Winter**.

Chronic Fluke symptoms include:

- Weight loss due to compromised liver function
- ‘Bottle jaw’ – submandibular oedema (see image)
- Anaemia
- Diarrhoea



If you have any queries regarding your flock status, please speak to us regarding testing and treatment.



** NEMATODIRUS UPDATE **

Following from last month's report, we are now in a **HIGH/MODERATE** risk area due to the warmer weather we have had over the last few weeks.

The red dot at Pershore **predicts hatching has already begun** and the orange dot at Little Rissington means a **mass hatch is anticipated within the next two weeks** if warmer temperatures persist (**map correct as of 24/4/18**).

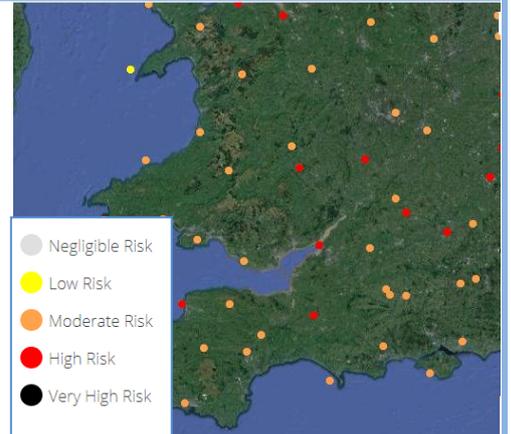
Please risk assess your pasture and prepare to worm young lambs!

Consider the following:

- Are lambs grazing on pasture that carried lambs last year? – **these pastures present higher Nematodirus risk in comparison to pasture grazed by adult ewes alone**
- Are lambs aged 6 -12 weeks old? - **at this age we would expect lambs to be eating significant amounts of grass; please bear in mind lambs may have higher grass intakes at younger ages this year – the initial poor weather and grass availability may be impacting on milk production, forcing lambs to graze earlier**
- Do you have any history of coccidiosis on farm? – **a high cocci challenge will put lambs at higher risk as there will be already be stress on the immune system **If you have any concerns – please bring in faecal samples for cocci counts!****
- Do you have any groups of foster lambs /triplets? – **lambs under any additional stress e.g. triplets vying for milk or lambs on older/young ewes will be at higher risk**

Lambs will need treating with a WHITE WORMER – e.g. Albendazole (Albex) Ricobendazole (Rycoben). Based on weather forecasts – a second treatment may be required in 2-3 week's time.

If you have any queries regarding your Nematodirus risk – please speak to one of us at the practice.



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 – this is our new email for newsletters
- Call the Farm Admin Team on 01452 543999
- Speak to the next vet out on farm with you or the next time we speak to you

RED TRACTOR CHANGES



Red Tractor are making some changes to their assurance requirements. As of the **1st of June 2018** it will be **compulsory** for all Farm Assured lamb members to have a **veterinary written annual health and performance review**. This must include a **stock visit** and **antibiotic use review**. If you are a Farm Assured member, please check your Flock Health Plans are up to date or call us to arrange for a Health Plan Visit.

If you have any queries, please speak to us at the practice