



THE
WOOD
VETERINARY
GROUP



FARM NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018

Red Tractor Update – June 2018

Every year those of you that produce milk, beef or lamb under the Red Tractor assurance scheme receive updates to their producer requirements. As of 1st June, there are new updates concerning antibiotic usage with the most significant changes relating to **Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics (HPCIA)**. HPCIA must be antibiotics of last resort and their use must be under the direction of a named veterinary surgeon backed up by laboratory investigation / sensitivity testing i.e. finding resistance to other first line antibiotics.

What does this really mean for us on farm?

- As of now we will not be stocking HPCIA in the pharmacy
- All prescribing of these products will be based on a vet decision for individual animals – this will need diagnostic testing to identify the absolute need to use a last resort product i.e. a mastitis culture with multi product resistance found on lab culture
- We will only be able to dispense doses of the products in questions for specific cases rather than leaving entire bottles on farm
- Assessors will need to see both a collated medicine purchase report from our sales records, separated out into each product signed by your vet with comments pertaining to appropriate use, as well as the farm medicine book:
 - Administration of a HPCIA after 1st June to an animal will also require vet direction with clinical evidence **even if purchased prior to this date**
 - Where ever a HPCIA is administered to an animal on farm, there needs to be a letter signed by the prescribing vet pertaining to the diagnosis, and sensitivity for that individual animal
 - Medicine books should log all purchased products as well as usage records separately. The usage records should include animal or group ID along with length of withdrawal for meat and milk alongside the actual date that the withdrawal is complete. We can provide medicine book templates that are better laid out than some of the old ones.



What Products?

HPCIA include 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporin and fluoroquinolones – these are two groups of antibiotics. The products that contain these antibiotics include the following trade names you will recognise:

- **Cobactan injection**
- **Cobactan MC tubes**
- **Cephaguard DC**
- **Naxcel**
- **Excenel RTU**
- **Marbocyl 10%**

So What Now?

Use of first line antibiotic alternatives should be discussed with your regular farm vet to decide what product is best used for which conditions and therefore how to eradicate HPCIA use from farm. Beef and sheep units need a vet health plan with a full antibiotic report included too. Failure to adopt the new regulations will as normal, result in a non-compliance audit.

Please see <https://bit.ly/2px7dvg> for the Red Tractor Guidance notes to clarify or speak to your vet.

Another change relates to medicine training – it is recommended that staff that are administering medicines of any type are trained as to the use, methods and withdrawals to ensure safe food production at farm level. We can train staff on farm to suit your requirements so please speak to us about courses.

On Farm Medicine Disposal – Dairy, Beef and Sheep Units

On the topic of medicines and with the season for farm inspections in full flow it is time to get farm protocols in order. In order to comply with Red Tractor and crucially DEFRA guidelines **ALL LIVESTOCK PREMISES MUST HAVE A YELLOW SHARPS BIN AND GRIFF BIN** to dispose of used needles and the bin for medicine bottles. These have always been available from the practice and the cost of purchase includes returning the container to us for licensed disposal. It couldn't be easier! To help get everyone compliant with the rules we are running our summer offer again:

Throughout JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST
Buy a 27 Kg Bottle Bin and a 2 Litre sharps bin for just
£60 +VAT

This is a saving of nearly £20 and for a lot of you these two containers will last a very long time. Remember that these rules apply to all medicines administered on livestock premises.

Ring the Office today to order your summer deal!

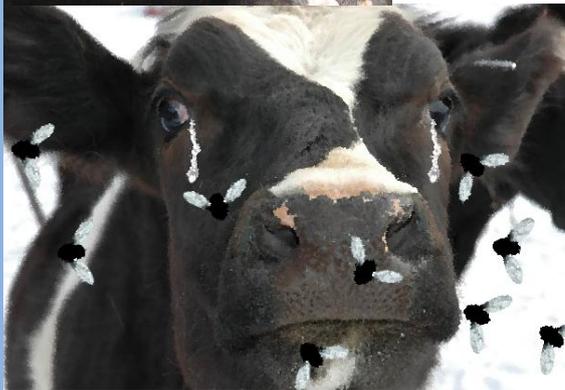


FLIES...

With the variable weather and warmer days after what was a wet, cold and very long winter, the flies are back and are rather sporadic in nature – this is making them harder to manage as there is very little pattern to the weather and subsequent fly hatching patterns.



Due to the long cold spells we are also seeing residual lice and mange infections in housed cattle and so it may be worth finding a product that can do both jobs for you in one go. Around this time of year we often hear reports about products seeming ineffective against flies and other flying parasites. Whilst this may be the case it is likely that application and timing are also part of the problem.



It is essential for welfare, production and disease prevention such as summer mastitis, new forest eye and fly strike that we get a grip on control early on in the season especially with intermittent weather.

There are masses of options out there all of which report different lengths of action and application. Where you have tried one that seems ineffective it is worth discussing other options and trying a different application such as Pour on vs. Ear tags. These can also be useful if you have wooded boundaries or significant eye problems.

Reminders

Ordering Medicines

Remember that ALL medicines need to be authorised by the prescribing vet and so please ring in advance to allow the time for this to happen. Weekends are to be avoided where possible as the duty vet is often busy attending to an emergency.

Meetings

PM Demonstration

This will be a small group meeting with a full post mortem demonstration of a cow looking at pathology and herd health implications

Wednesday 27th June 2018

Details to follow – watch this space!