



Heat Stress

With the continued dry weather and very recent short but heavy rain showers livestock are still being affected by heat stress. Noticeably, across the cattle sector oestrus/bulling demonstration has been extremely poor and conception rates have dropped. Milk yields and quality are holding for the majority but this is unfortunately at the cost of using up winter forages. Heavily pregnant stock are being affected the most and we are seeing early calvings and negative impacts on transition and early lactation. Finishing lambs and cattle are requiring creep and forages to get them to killing weight, again having a detrimental impact on winter stores.

FLIES...

Another significant impact of this weather is the flies. New forest eye, fly strike and fly worrying have all been a significant problem over the last month and so we are more and more reliant on fly repellents to reduce this welfare problem.

Control of flies is a difficult issue. Control of the environment is as important as on the animals. Whilst pour-on products are more commonly used there are ear tags also on the market (Flectron). These can be very useful for those units suffering with New Forest Eye disease. Fly sprays for buildings are also a useful option that act to attract and kill flies once applied to cattle sheds. Twenty One Fly Spray/Killer reportedly lasts for 12 weeks so would see most farms through to the end of the fly season and can be used alongside cow treatments.



New Forest Eye Disease (NFD)

This disease is a bacterial infection of the outer layer of the cornea producing an ulcer. This is first seen as small crater on the cornea surface but can easily go undetected. The more obvious clinical signs are:

- Tear production that attracts yet more flies
- Partial closing of the eye and seeking out shade to get out of the bright sunlight which causes pain
- A White/cloudy spot across the surface of the eye

Treatment is straightforward and very effective if done in the early stages of the disease:

- Topical ophthalmic ointments
Usually 2 treatments 48 hours apart are needed. (Opticlox eye ointment)
- NSAID (anti-inflammatory product) injection to reduce pain and tear production
- Injecting antibiotics into the eyelid margin space is very effective but it requires one of the farm veterinary team to do it.
- Vet injection only antibiotics are also an option for cases at grazing

The most important aspect of all eye diseases is that the healing process looks worse before it looks better. A normal cornea has no blood vessels so healing occurs by blood capillaries growing in from the edge of the cornea and this makes the surface of the eye look angry and bright red. It can be seen as a red ring (see picture).



Healing Eye with Red
Blood Vessel Migration

Eventually these vessels start to regress and form a ring around a central white scar. As long as the following is seen then the eye is healing:

- Tear production reduces or ceases
- The eye opens up fully
- You can see the healing process

If treatment is delayed then the eye may never heal fully and leave the animal with varying degrees of visual impairment or the need for an eye removal. Any rapid swelling/craters need to be assessed as can be from injuries or cancerous growths not NFD.

Reminder - On Farm Medicine Disposal

It is the last month for getting a discounted sharps and bottle bin. **ALL LIVESTOCK PREMISES MUST HAVE A SHARPS BIN AND GRIFF BIN** for used needles and medicine bottles.

Buy a 27 Kg Bottle Bin and a 2 Litre sharps bin for just £60 +VAT

This is a saving of nearly £20

Remember these rules apply to all medicines administered on livestock premises.

Ring the Office today to order your summer deal!



Anti-Inflammatory Medicines

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate in the UK has suspended the licenses of products for food-producing animals that contain the excipient or binding agent diethanolamine. This affects the sale of injectable Flunixin (Finadyne etc) which is a heavily used Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory product. Whilst this is rather frustrating as we have seen incredibly positive effects of the increased use of these products in food producing animals we have alternative products available to us. As per the table below each of them is suitable for a different type of animal and disease area based on meat and milk withdrawal and dosing regime. Speak to your vet about which products will be suitable to fulfil your needs.

Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug	DOSE TIMING	DOSE RATE	MILK WITHDRAWAL	MEAT WITHDRAWAL
FLUNIXIN (FINADYNE TRANSDERMAL)	ONCE	7ml/100kg Pour On	1.5 DAYS	7 DAYS
KETOPROFEN (KETOFEN 10%)	DAILY FOR 3 DAYS	3ml/100kg IM or IV	ZERO DAYS	1 DAY IV 4 DAYS IM
MELOXICAM (METACAM 20mg/ml)	ONCE	2.5ml/100kg Under the Skin	5 DAYS	15 DAYS

TB Gamma Blood Test

As of April 2017 gamma blood testing has been compulsory for TB breakdowns with lesions and/or culture positive animals in the High Risk Areas (HRA) where one or more of the following criteria are met:

1. APHA veterinary investigation concludes that transmission was most likely from contact with infected cattle and measures are in place to prevent further spread of disease from this source.
2. The infected herd is within one of the areas where at least two years of effective licensed badger population control have been completed.
3. There is clear evidence that repeated skin testing of the herd has failed to resolve a TB breakdown

Several Gloucestershire herds have already undergone gamma testing. Please see the below details to know when and what to expect from gamma blood testing.

The gamma test is a supplementary blood test used to increase the chances of identifying TB infected cattle and is completed by APHA staff. The gamma test is more *sensitive* than the skin test i.e. It can identify TB-infected cattle that are missed by the skin test and those that are earlier in the course of infection. The gamma test is less *specific* than the skin test and for that reason its use is generally restricted to herds suffering fully confirmed TB breakdowns with lesion or culture-positive animals. Reactor animals (gamma and skin test) do not necessarily show lesions of TB at post mortem meat inspection because they are often in the early stages of infection when TB lesions are too small to be seen by the naked eye.

Meetings

Foot Trimming Course

Theory and Practical Course With Cadaver Feet

Friday 7th and Monday 10th September 2018

Invites to follow

Register your interest today