



Autumn Grazing

Fog fever also known as Acute Bovine Pulmonary Edema and Emphysema (ABPEE) is a form of acute pneumonia seen in adult beef and dairy cattle in the autumn months. The common name 'Fog Fever' is somewhat misleading as it does not occur as a result of foggy weather and doesn't produce a temperature in cattle but takes its name from cattle being moved to foggage pastures (lush, fast growing pasture)!

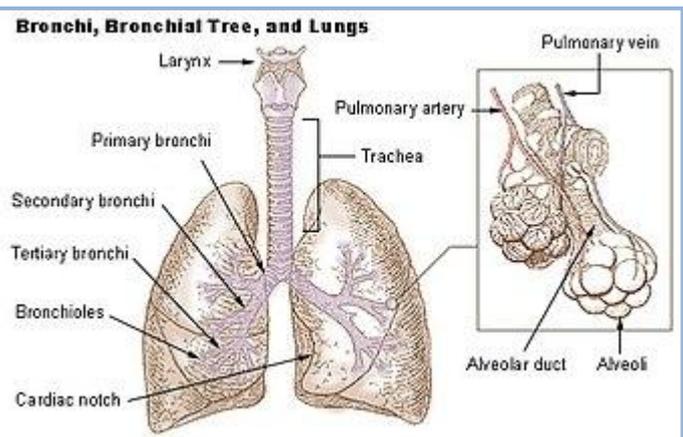
Clinical Signs

Four to ten days after moving from tight grazing or housed dry feed onto a fresh lush, fast growing pasture with high protein levels we see:

- Difficulty breathing – necks stretched out to increase airflow
- Fast breathing
- Coughing and froth around the mouth
- Cyanosis or pale/blue mucous membranes from reduced function of lung alveolar membrane
- Normal or only slightly elevated temperature
- Collapse and death - Often 50% of adult cattle will be affected by clinical signs and up to a third of affected animals may die



Cattle gorge on new lush pasture which will contain high levels of protein, specifically the amino acid Tryptophan. The rumen bacteria convert Tryptophan into 3-Methylindole (3-MI). The 3-MI is absorbed through the rumen wall and circulates around the body. Cells in the bronchioles (smaller tubes into the lung tissue) convert it to 3-Methyleneindole which is extremely toxic to the alveolar cells. The more 3-MI the rumen produces, the more alveolar cells are destroyed causing the above symptoms.



Treatment and Prevention

There is no specific treatment for Fog fever but Anti-inflammatory medicines can alleviate clinical signs in mild cases. Severe cases will often die within 24-48 hours despite treatment. Removing cows from pasture is often advised but may cause significant stress resulting in more deaths if far away or with calves at foot. Offering another forage option or opening gates to access a previously tight grazed pasture may help to reduce the concentration of 3-MI produced. Prevention is based around controlling the amount of access cows have to lush pasture so limiting grazing time in the first 10 days on new pasture, frequent rotation between pastures to stop mass grass growth and offering other forages at pasture can all reduce risk of cases. Mowing pastures immediately before grazing can also control intakes of high protein.

Planning for Housing

Last month we discussed boosting immunity by vaccinating cattle pre housing to reduce pneumonia incidence over the winter. Housing also offers the ideal time to target known internal and external parasites including fluke by manipulating normal parasitic lifecycles once animals are no longer grazing.

Parasitic Diseases at Housing

Whilst wormer products often have an extended action and give some cover against lice (Macrocyclic lactone wormers i.e. Avermectin types), fluke products have no persistence (working only on that day) and so timing is key. Use wormers at the start of housing to remove gastrointestinal worms giving maximum benefit to growth rates and lice. **Do not use worm and fluke combination products at housing** as one of the products is being used at completely the wrong time wasting money and risking major disease impacts.

As you can see from the table below, you need to **wait a number of weeks after housing** before treating for fluke to ensure that it removes all of the life stages i.e. wait for all fluke to be the

minimum age of kill according to the active ingredient of the product you are using. Correct product timing stops adult fluke being overwintered in the liver causing chronic damage. When fluke are overwintered they mature into adults and are ready to shed masses of eggs onto pasture in the spring. By preventing this maturation of fluke during housing it reduces the fluke risk for the following grazing season. Dairy units are limited to using products within the dry period due to lengthy milk withdrawals but there are ways to target the peak fluke burden with correct product selection. Please speak to us about product selection for exact cases but use the below table of active ingredients for a starting guide:



Active Ingredient	Minimum Age of Fluke Killed
Triclabendazole (Oral)	2 weeks
Triclabendazole (Pour On)	6-8 weeks
Closantel (Injection/Pour On)	7 weeks
Nitroxylnil (Injection)	8 weeks
Albendazole (Oral)	10 weeks
Clorsulon (Injection)	
Oxyclosanide (Oral)	

Finadyne Injection

Just over a year ago, Finadyne (Flunixin) injection and its equivalents were removed from the market for containing a binding agent deemed possibly carcinogenic. It has now been relicensed for food producing animals without this binding agent. Flunixin is a fantastic NSAID injectable that was sorely missed for a number of conditions including toxic E. coli mastitis, viral diseases and treatment protocols where a milk withdrawal antibiotic is being used. In all other respects the product has not changed although the safety data has been extended to allow one injection every 24 hours for up to 5 consecutive days. Finadyne is at the practice ready to order from now. Speak to your vet as how to incorporate it back into your farm treatment protocols.



Meetings

BVD STAMP IT OUT

Thursday 28th November 2019

At The Swan at Coombe Hill GL194BA

Invite to follow

Meetings

Dairy KPI Meeting

Wednesday 27th November 2019

11 - 2pm at Quedgeley

Lunch will be provided

Stock for Sale: Local Aberdeen Angus herd at Tweenhills Farm and Stud has breeding stock for sale. Please see <https://tweenhills.com/beef> for more details and to enquire.