



THE  
WOOD  
VETERINARY  
GROUP

# FARM NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



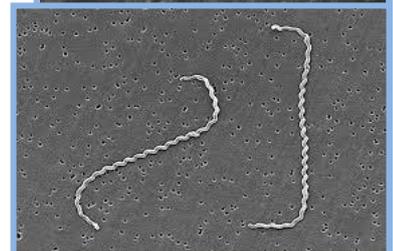
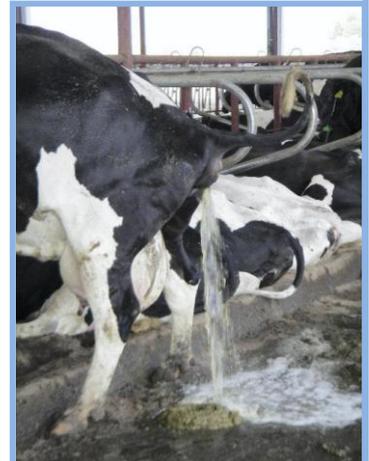
## Leptospirosis

Despite some decline in prevalence, Lepto is still a common source of ABORTION, POOR FERTILITY and MILK DROP, with those that graze at the highest risk. However, year round housing is not a guaranteed safeguard due to the infection route. The bacteria are shed in milk and from the kidneys into urine and can cause:

- **Reduced conception rate to as low as 15% in clinical outbreaks**
- **Decreased milk yield by 800 litres per lactation**
- **Higher abortion rates – especially late stage abortion**
- **It is also zoonotic (transfers to people) and can also cause 'flu like' symptoms in humans**

Lepto is shed in cow urine and is spread via:

- Contaminated water sources which can include all non-mains water sources including bore holes
- **Flood water over pastures from contaminated rivers and ponds – very pertinent in Gloucestershire at the moment!**
- Persistently infected cows that shed despite vaccination (the vaccine prevents clinical disease, not shedding)
- Rat activity contaminating water and feed stores with urine
- Very poor forages with soil contamination (Lepto can survive for six months in wet soil)
- Indirect contact with the bacteria from bought in animals
- Co- grazing animals increases likely infection e.g.: Buying in animals/ Bull hiring/ Sheep grazing



Due to the spread of the bacteria, a certain amount can be done to eliminate the risks through farm management but vaccination will be a vital part of any plan where Leptospirosis has been identified as a problem. Last year there were major issues with availability of Leptospirosis vaccine across the UK. This has caused some farms to have a complete lapse in herd protection leaving them at risk of new infection outbreaks and potentially devastating impacts on fertility, yield and calving performance. Now that the vaccines are available again, **it is vital that those herds that did not booster last year complete a primary course for all cattle on farm including breeding bulls well ahead of spring turnout and serving blocks.**

When vaccinating with **Lepto Vaccine**:

- Primary course of 2 injections given 4 weeks apart
- 2nd dose given 2 or more weeks before turnout/service
- Annual booster again 2 weeks before turnout
- Vaccinate all breeding animals – i.e. heifers prior to first service and bulls too

**Is it a problem on your farm?**

Do a BULK MILK TEST or BEEF BLOODS – 1 bulk milk or 10 bloods are free on a scheme if you don't know your status.

**Speak to us to get this booked in this winter so you can make changes ahead of spring turnout**

## Silver Aluminium Aerosol

We regularly use Engemycin (blue) **ANTIBIOTIC** spray for the treatment of Digital dermatitis, Scald in sheep, infected wounds and Orf lesions. For Digital dermatitis daily application of topical Engemycin spray for 3 days on a dry foot is one of the few effective treatments to stop an active lesion alongside regular preventative foot bathing.

However Engemycin blue spray is also commonly used in sterile or uninfected wounds. This is arguably an excessive use of antibiotic spray when we could use an **ANTIBACTERIAL** spray instead. You may have noticed over the last two years that the practice has been using more Silver Aluminium Spray (Silver!) **ANTIBACTERIAL** spray for castrates, surgical wounds, disbuds and dehorn.

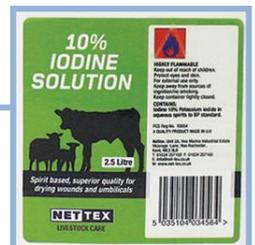
We would encourage farms to use Silver spray when disbudding calves on farm. This will help to drop the overall amount of antibiotic spray used, reducing the chances of resistance developing to what is a very useful topical spray product.



Another inappropriate area we find that Engemycin **ANTIBIOTIC** spray gets used is for identifying animals on the head or udder and spraying navels. To prevent resistance developing it is essential that we stop this random use to preserve it for treating skin infections as discussed above.

- **ID** – Stock marker is significantly cheaper and lasts a lot longer as it was designed for the job

- **Navel spray** – Antibiotic spray should not to be used for navel dipping. The idea behind navel dipping is to dry the navel cord out to stop bacteria from moving up the cord into the abdominal cavity and causing an infection. Engemycin spray keeps the navel moist, the opposite of what we want to achieve. The most common product designed for navel application is **Strong Iodine 10%** - it contains ethanol (alcohol to you and I) that dries out the cord very effectively. If you would rather not use Iodine due to allergies and staining or like having smaller containers with a spray cap then we have an alternative product – **Super 7Plus** – this is coloured like Iodine so it is easy to check application coverage but it is actually alkaline electrolysed reducing water and works very effectively to dry out the navel as quickly as possible. We hold Super 7Plus at the practice to order.



**THE WOODS FARM TEAM WISHES YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



**It's only just December but...  
CHRISTMAS MEDICINE  
ORDERS**

Please ring ALL medicines orders in by **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December** for collection/delivery on visits before Christmas!

