



THE
**WOOD
VETERINARY
GROUP**



Agricure Product Launch

We are excited to launch our new custom range of health support products to our clients this month. As an industry each year, we are focused on achieving less and less antibiotic usage whilst striving for more efficient and environmentally conscious production of milk, beef and lamb. The Agricure range is designed with this strategy in mind, bringing veterinary data and evidence to support the targeted use of naturally occurring substances in livestock production. We are starting with a calf milk additive and a rumination support powder:

Calf Power Plus is a powdered additive for whole milk or milk replacer, formulated to promote calf gut health reducing the incidence of nutritional diarrhoea and increasing growth rates. Maximising pre-weaning growth in calves directly links to increased adult lifetime yield and as most units struggle with calf health at some point in the year from non-infectious and infectious causes of scour, this product offers a non-antibiotic approach to improving gut health, calf survival and ultimately feed conversion performance.



The unique blend of organic acids improves milk digestibility avoiding the flow of undigested milk into the large intestine, which is what causes fermentation or nutritional diarrhoea. The organic acids and natural plant extracts and oils such as Garlic, Rosemary and Oregano also provide anti-bacterial, anti-protozoan (Cryptosporidium and Cocci are both protozoa), anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. The overall aim is to reduce the burden of these harmful microbes whilst increasing the natural absorption of nutrients and dietary proteins to boost calf health and growth rates. Due to its powder formulation, Calf Power Plus can easily be added in to the daily routine for all milk calves from their 2nd feed until weaning, providing protection during the most susceptible rearing period.

Speak to your vet today about incorporating **Calf Power Plus** into your calf rearing regime



Rumen Support will be replacing our current digestive imbalance sachets. This is a uniquely formulated feed supplement to:

- Stimulate microbial activity in the rumen
- Stimulate metabolism and appetite
- Stabilise rumen pH – unstable pH is a huge factor in long term inefficient feed conversion that stems from periods of low dry matter intake but can last a lactation if not corrected

Rumen Support is formulated from a high concentration of Yeasts, Rumen protected Methionine, Vitamins (A, B, D3, E) and Trace Elements. It can be used to support appetite and improve recovery times in animals after periods of disease, during antibiotic therapy and post-surgical cases such as LDA toggles or caesarean deliveries. It can also be used preventatively in cows that are suffering from transitional acidosis, mastitis, metritis and in freshly calved high-risk cows to avoid the development of ketosis. Often, we have easily treated the obvious clinical disease but supporting the animal's recovery is also vital to get her back to efficiently converting feed and not being culled out prematurely. Rumen Support plays a key role in restoring rumen function. It also has the advantage of having a prescribed dose rate for younger cattle and sheep too.

Lungworm/Husk

Despite large areas of the county still being flooded or at best saturated, it is hard to think about turnout. However, it will eventually dry out and straw supplies will dwindle and we must ensure that cattle are protected against lungworm ahead of the grazing season. Young stock that haven't grazed and adult cattle that have not been exposed for some years such as dry cows are at risk of developing severe disease as they have little or no immunity. In clinical cases we can see:

- Coughing
- Loss of body condition
- Increased respiratory rate and difficulty breathing
- Death in severe cases in 24-48 hours
- Adult milking cows can also show severe milk drop

Lifecycle:

Larvae are ingested from infected pasture and migrate out of the gut and through the diaphragm. This damages lung tissue causing parasitic bronchitis. The larvae mature to adults in the lungs and lay eggs which hatch into new larvae. These larvae are coughed up and swallowed back into the rumen - then shed in the faeces completing the infection cycle. Once a farm has lungworm, cases will recur due to resistant larvae over wintering on pastures and cows carrying larvae through the housing window.

Immunity:

A natural immunity develops once animals have been exposed to low numbers of larvae. If adults are grazed each year then their immunity is boosted annually. If we have a particularly low year for larvae then their immune system will not be exposed, leaving them almost naive the next season. The only method of protecting animals is to vaccinate cattle **BEFORE** turnout.

Huskvac is a vaccine made of live, irradiated 3rd stage larvae triggering immunity to develop against the lungworm:

- Vaccinate ALL CATTLE BEFORE THEIR FIRST grazing season from 8 weeks old
- Course of 2 doses – 4 weeks apart
- 2nd dose needs to be 2 weeks prior to turnout (**start a minimum of 6 weeks prior to turnout! – i.e. now if it stops raining!**)
- Keep the vaccine in the fridge and GENTLY invert each bottle to not kill larvae before administration orally
- Applicators are available to assist with dosing but a head scoop makes life a lot easier and safer
- Do not use ANY wormer for 2 weeks after – this will kill the larvae stopping the immunity response
- Graze these animals on old permanent leys, avoiding clean pasture
- Beware the purchase of unvaccinated in calf or down calving heifers! Animals that have not been exposed for a number of years are naive again and will develop clinical disease. Quarantine animals and use a wormer prior to grazing as a standard protocol to avoid contamination of pastures



Order Huskvac NOW to get the 6 week course complete prior to grazing

Job Opportunity

We are looking for a colleague to take part in veterinary work as an Approved Tuberculin Tester, across farms in Gloucestershire – joining our five vet clinical team with two further TB Testers, and Vet Tech. Full training would be given towards the ATT qualification and you would be provided with the practical support of an experienced team of vets and office based colleagues.

If this could be an interesting area of career development for you, or friends with agricultural experience – don't hesitate to get in touch with Graham on 07768 747737 graham.stephens@woodvet.co.uk or Paul on 07741 052502 p.cunliffe@woodvet.co.uk or call Naomi Grainger our deputy practice manager on 01452 543999 or email naomi.grainger@woodvet.co.uk