THE WOOD VETERINARY GROUP

NSAIDs

For many years our team has advocated the increased use of Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory (NSAIDs) based on research studies, for clinical diseases such as mastitis and lameness to increase the speed of recovery, reduce pain responses and minimise the impact on production. A joint team from Edinburgh and Glasgow have now added to that by proving that a **single dose of Ketofen 10% (Ketoprofen) immediately post calving has the potential to improve dairy cow welfare with a reduction in pain behaviours for at least 48hrs**[(1)]. This improvement was shown to be as beneficial in both cows that had an assisted and un-assisted calvings. The reduction in pain behaviour was reflected in better feed intakes and less time lying out flat. It shows that the pain associated with even a "normal" calving has negative impacts on feed intakes and if this can be reduced it will have a positive effect on welfare, yield and return to oestrus.

Whist we are reviewing NSAIDs it is a good opportunity to clarify the difference between pain and inflammation as the two often get blurred together. Inflammation is the localised, physical response to any injury to a tissue or organ from trauma or infection. The four main signs of inflammation are **heat, redness, swelling and pain**. Pain is one of the reactions to inflammation, whether acute (recent) or chronic (longer term e.g. a lame cow).
This means that NSAIDs can be used to reduce pain along with the other physical signs wherever there is evidence of inflammation or pain.

There are numerous NSAIDs available, and one size doesn't fit all so please speak to your vet to ensure you're using the one most suitable for your scenario for example milk withdrawal vs none or route.

(1) Administration of Ketoprofen affects postpartum lying behaviours of Holstein dairy cows regardless of whether parturition is assisted. Gladden, Ellis, Martin and McKeegan

Mastitis and Treatment Planning

With seasonal grazing herds already starting to buffer feed in the last few weeks of the season, it is a good time to review any mastitis management in the run up to housing as it won't be long until all cows are housed again. The winter months can cause sudden increases in clinical mastitis rates which creates extra costs, stress, and pressure on labour as well as being a significant welfare issue for livestock.
There are two groups of bacteria which cause mastitis - contagious and environmental. Increasingly, mastitis is caused by the environmental group controlled by farm management. So what can we do?

Reduce infection in the housed or grazing environment:

- Ensure scraping of passages and backs of cubicles is thorough so cows have clean udders and clean teats
- Use plentiful bedding in cubicles and check cows can lie in them
- Watch out for the pinch point at the parlour exit which can get deep in slurry after milking
    - We can conduct hygiene scoring, cubicle acceptance scores and hock lesion scores on fertility or vet tech visits to evaluate cow comfort and slurry management on farm
- Consider clipping tails and singeing udders
- Improve cow tracks and gateways

Reduction in the parlour

- Use a specific pre-dip/spray and observe the specific kill time for the product. Rushing this step promotes live bacteria entering the teat canal. 60-90 seconds of prep time is optimal for teat stimulation and milk let-down
- Avoid liner slip through overmilking. Liner slip causes reverse flow of milk, firing potentially infected milk back at the opposite teat
- Ensure parlours are serviced twice a year and liners changed on time
- Speak to your parlour service technician to check your ACR settings for twice daily milking which should be at least 400ml/minute

Treatments

Intra mammary tube supply has been extremely challenging over the last 24 months and with the news that Tetra Delta has been permanently removed from the market, we need to review what treatment regimes will be adopted going forwards for each farm individually. A great source of information to base these decisions on is own farm pathogens. Every case of mastitis should be sampled prior to treatment and stored in the freezer with cow I.D., quarter I.D. and date. These samples can then be run quarterly to assess the main pathogens involved and their antibiotic sensitivity. By storing samples in the freezer, we can react promptly to rising clinical rates or SCC.

As discussed above, NSAIDs are now even more key for mastitis treatment, used both on their own for mild cases with milk clots alone or alongside tubes for more severe cases to improve speed and success of treatment and reduce pain.

Discuss Mastitis prevention and treatment plans with your vet to establish the best plan ahead of housing this autumn

Plan for Housing - IBR Boosters

Housing offers an ideal opportunity to vaccinate cattle without adding in an extra handling event or stress whilst utilising the same labour. It is also a great time to boost immunity ahead of the high-risk period caused by increasing stocking density and mixing age groups at housing. All vaccines have a lag phase between the injection of the vaccine and full immunity being established and these differ between each vaccine type. There are different vaccines available with a range of properties and so it is important to decide which regime is best for your farm.

Bovilis IBR marker Live – Single vaccination intranasally or intramuscularly

- Cover against Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis – a disease that still has devastating effects on adult cattle and young stock alike
- Commonly presents as pneumonia signs including at least one of:
    - Coughing, Nasal discharge, Conjunctivitis, High temperatures, Milk drop, Collapse
- Licenced to be given 12 monthly once a cow has had the first two doses given 1-6 months apart
- Time vaccine herd boosters in the autumn period before housing and weather conditions are more likely to produce disease
- Give vaccine intranasally under 3 months of age or older cattle in the face of an outbreak – slows spread of disease through a herd
- Give vaccine in the muscle for animals over 3 months old

Staff News Update

We are pleased to announce that Tamsin has been promoted to Clinical Director within Wood Vet Group and Katie has taken on the role as Senior Farm Vet, as we continue to develop and strengthen the farm animal team.