



THE
WOOD
VETERINARY
GROUP

FARM NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2022

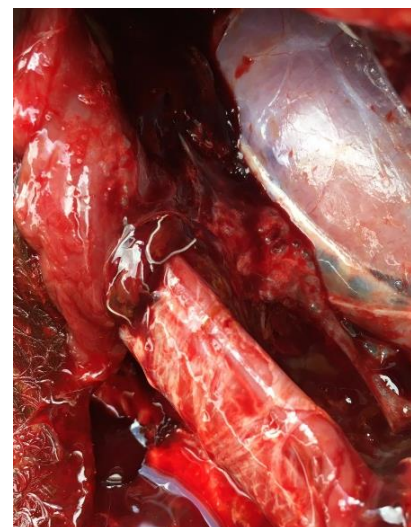


Vaccinate against Lungworm pre-turnout, or cough up later

Back in September the newsletter highlighted cases of autumnal Lungworm or 'Husk'. Most lungworm cases are reported at the back end of the autumn grazing season. However, lungworm larvae can overwinter on pasture and inside carrier cattle, causing infection from year to year. Naive cattle can pick up infection as soon as they are turned out in the spring. And if they do, it could be very costly.

It pays to vaccinate

Vaccination against lungworm is a no brainer. In a dairy herd, lungworm infection could easily cost you £140 per cow with lost milk production averaging 4kg per cow per day – and that's a conservative estimate – because you can also lose cattle to lungworm.



Home-reared replacements heifers tend to graze on a separate pasture away from the milking herd and are often treated with long-acting wormers, perhaps in both the first and second grazing seasons. When this replacement group enters the main herd, they have no immunity to lungworm and the risk of a disease outbreak at grass is very high. Lungworm is unpredictable and best controlled through vaccination especially targeting youngstock.

Boost immunity through vaccination

Huskvac is a live vaccine, made from irradiated lungworm larvae, which are therefore incapable of causing disease.

Vaccination course:

- 2 doses
- 4 weeks apart
- 2nd dose 2 weeks prior to turnout to grass
- Wormers should not be given until two weeks after the final dose of vaccine

The vaccine allows a small number of lungworm from natural infection to complete their life-cycle. This means there is a continued development of natural immunity throughout the grazing season. Graze vaccinated heifers on old permanent leys avoiding clean pasture. Over-reliance on wormers does not allow this natural immunity to occur.

Beware the purchase of unvaccinated in calf or down calving heifers! Quarantine animals and use a wormer prior to grazing as a standard protocol to avoid contamination of pastures.

Vaccination with a pre-turnout course of Huskvac is the most reliable and cost-effective way of ensuring the development of immunity to lungworm. Please give us a call to discuss your parasite control plan for the spring and summer. Turnout may seem a long way off in this cold, wet weather but it will take 6 weeks from starting the course to turnout which will be late Feb at the earliest.

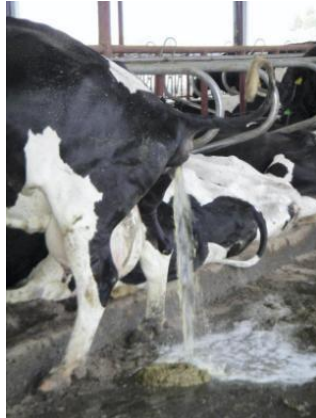
Huskvac will be available from early February so plan ahead to time vaccination!

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**
- **It can also cause 'flu like' symptoms in humans**



Lepto is present on farms due to:

- Contaminated water sources which can include all non-mains water sources including bore holes
- Persistently infected cows that shed despite vaccination (the vaccine prevents clinical disease, not shedding)
- Rat activity contaminating water and feed

- Very poor forages with soil contamination (Lepto can survive for six months in wet soil)
- Indirect contact with the bacteria from bought in animals or co- grazing animals increases likely infection e.g.:
 - Buying in animals
 - Bull hiring
 - Sheep grazing

In line with this, a certain amount can be done to reduce the risks on each farm but vaccination will always be a vital part of any plan where Leptospirosis has been identified as a problem. When vaccinating:

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

Is it a problem on your farm?

Do a BULK MILK TEST or BEEF BLOODS – 1 bulk milk or 10 bloods. Grazing herds can always sample at the end of each summer/autumn to review their risk status.

Speak to us to get these tests booked in.

Farming Investment Fund

Don't forget it is not long until the end of the FTF grants for Water Management. A reminder:

The **Farming Transformation Fund** is larger grants of between £35,000 and £500,000 towards large capital items to help improve productivity, profitability, and environmental sustainability. It is being launched in three parts of with the first part open now for Water Management. This phase closes on 12th January.

Visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-investment-fund> to find out more information on what is eligible and how to apply to make the most of this funding.

There will be further rounds of this fund aimed at improving farm productivity and efficiency so bear this in mind if you are planning any major investments and projects in 2022/23. There are always short deadlines for the interest phase so make sure they are a priority when the next round is released.

Another New Arrival

Louise and Rich's baby boy Theo arrived safely in time for Christmas. Another happy, healthy addition to Team Woods and we can't wait to meet him. Fingers crossed it's not too much like a busy on call shift for Louise over the coming weeks.



Wood Vets Farm Team



@woodvetsfarmteam