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FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2025

NEW VETERINARY MEDICINE REGULATIONS



We mentioned in last month's newsletter that as from 1st February 2025 the use of antibiotics for prophylaxis (= preventative use of antibiotics such as antibiotic footbaths, blanket use of antibiotic dry cow tubes on all cows at dry off or blanket use of antibiotics on all lambs at birth to *prevent* rattlebelly) is now prohibited other than in exceptional circumstances.

If required, a vet will need to provide a clear rationale, which must be documented, for every prescription of antibiotic for preventative use (prophylaxis) and that a management review including a premises visit should be carried out as close to the time of prescription as possible and definitely within 3 months. The same protocols will need to be applied whether your farm is Red Tractor Assured or not.

HAVE YOU SCANNED YOUR SHEEP YET?

Just a little reminder for those who have scanned their flock to forward their scanning data to the surgery. This information will be extremely useful at your annual health and performance review visit. We have had mixed feedback regarding scanning, with some clients informing us of lighter scans. A scan revealing a geld rate of over 2% is abnormal and we strongly recommend looking into the possible causes. Blood sampling geld/barren sheep to identify Enzootic and Toxoplasma abortion is once again subsidised this year by MSD via flock check. To discuss, please contact the surgery and speak to one of the farm vets.



DALEHEAD GISBURN AUCTION BRANCH

We have extended our opening hours at our Gisburn Auction branch on Thursdays with the office now being open 10am to 1.00pm. The Gisburn office offers our clients a drug parcel collection point as well as a drop off point for anything which needs to come across to Settle including correspondence and lab samples.

We kindly ask for all parcel orders to be placed before 5.00pm on Wednesday. This ensures that the vet has had time to review the items to be dispensed.

Gisburn
Auction Marts



NEW FARM VET—AMY OVEREND



We would like to introduce to you our newest member of the Dalehead Veterinary Group Farm Team, Amy Overend. Amy graduated from the University of Liverpool in July 2024 before starting at Dalehead in January 2025. She is looking forward to getting stuck into everything and finding out what aspects of the job she enjoys best.

When she isn't dealing with animals, Amy loves travelling or anything fun outdoors, so she is often found up mountains and occasionally in the ocean. But also likes a quiet day at home, baking or being artsy. We are sure that you will all help to make her welcome at the practice and to the area.

DEALING WITH SHEEP ABORTIONS

Sadly, we have already seen several cases of sheep abortion this year. For those who are unfortunate to experience this, please see below guidelines of how to deal with abortion cases in your flock.

- Always assume that any ewe which lambs prematurely as well as its lambs, afterbirths and vaginal discharges are contagious to other sheep, so isolate her from all other sheep including ewes which have already lambed and geld hogs.
- Remove aborted lambs, afterbirths plus bedding that may have been contaminated from the lambing environment.
- Aborting ewes and their lambs/afterbirths are potentially contagious to humans so always wear gloves when handling abortion material.
- **PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD AVOID CONTACT WITH ABORTING EWES.**
- If you have over 2-3% of sheep aborting or re-absorptions, mummified lambs or weakly live lambs it is likely that there is an infectious cause of abortion present which should be investigated to determine the cause. Collect freshly aborted lambs and afterbirths, double bag them in leakproof containers and contact the surgery to arrange to drop off for investigation.
- Do not bring abortion material into the surgery building - we have a clearly labelled yellow salt bin for samples which is located outside the farm building at the bottom site.
- The more information that we are given; the number of ewes aborting, the age of the ewes, how far off lambing, are the aborting ewes off colour, are they purchased or homebred, did you have abortions last year, have they been vaccinated for either Toxo or Enzo, the better advice we can provide.
- If abortion material is not available for testing there are subsidised blood testing schemes available (free lab fees, you are only charged for taking of the blood samples) to check for antibodies (evidence of exposure) to Toxoplasma and Enzootic abortion. These samples can be taken at any time in the 3 month period after the abortions.



Visit our website for further information and fact sheets on Enzootic abortions, Toxoplasmosis and Campylobacter abortions in ewes.

PRODUCT NEWS

Are you ready for the lambing season?

SELEKT®

Have SELEKT Re-EWE-ventate on-hand to help ewes recover from:

Twin-lamb disease

...and reduce the risk of:

Hypocalcaemia

Hypokalaemia

Also includes biotin, and vitamin B12 to support the rumen flora.



SELEKT Re-EWE-ventate

At our recent sheep meeting we discussed a new product for the treatment of twin lamb disease: **Re-ewe-ventate** contains 70gms of glycerol and 20gms of propylene glycol per 100ml dose. The combination of the 2 ingredients has been shown to almost double blood glucose concentrations 12 hours after treatment.

The product also contains calcium as ewes with twin lamb disease can also be short of calcium. Established cases of twin lamb disease will become dehydrated and benefit from oral fluids and electrolytes which can be supplied by mixing a **Selekt Restore** sachet into drinking water.

Please contact the surgery for further details.

PRODUCT NEWS

NOBACZ NAVEL TREATMENT



Joint ill/stiff lambs are a cause of concern and frustration for many sheep farmers at lambing time. We know about the importance of sufficient intakes of good quality colostrum, hygiene in the lambing pens and prompt navel disinfection to help avoid problems. This year as an alternative to dipping navels in a strong iodine solution NOBACZ Navel has been launched.

NOBACZ is a unique, rapid setting and long lasting solution for navel dipping in lambs and calves. It rapidly disinfects and dries the navel in as little as 2 hours and seals with a colourful

natural resin that forms a long lasting waterproof barrier to protect against bacteria entering from the environment. It can also be used on the area around ear tags on both lambs and calves.

Combining the traditional cleaning and drying agent ethanol with a unique barrier offering long lasting protection from environmental pathogen, NOBACZ Navel is antibiotic free and consists of a natural polymer with metal ions. It can be applied by dipping or spraying and contains a bitter agent to deter ewe or cow interference.



For more details contact the surgery.



To find out more scan the QR code or visit:
www.nobacz.com/nobacz-navel/

PRE-LAMBING CLOSTRIDIAL BOOSTERS



Pre-lambing boosters should be administered approximately four weeks pre-lambing to ensure maximum protective antibodies in the ewe's colostrum.

We do not anticipate any supply issues with straight clostridial vaccine supply (e.g. Bravoxin, Covexin 10) but there are ongoing availability issues with combined clostridial/pneumonia vaccine (Heptavac-P).

The latest update from our MSD representative has informed us that Heptavac-P is due to be available early February but amount and bottle sizes will be limited.

We are taking orders for Heptavac-P and placing clients on the list on a first come first served basis. To place your order please contact the surgery.

HUSKVAC (Lungworm Vaccine) FOR CALVES

The best way to protect first season grazers is through lungworm vaccination with **Huskvac**. Calves should be at least 8 weeks of age before vaccination and 2 doses of vaccine are required with 4 weeks between the first and second dose. The second dose should be administered at least 2 weeks prior to turnout.

Last year we did experience disruptions in supply. If you could let us know sooner rather than later how many doses you require and for when, we will try our best to order in your first and second doses, all depending on the expiry dates of that batch.

Please contact the surgery to place your order or to discuss using Huskvac.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES REFRESHER COURSE

Another requirement of the new legislation and revised Red Tractor Standards is that dairy farmers and their staff will need to refresh their medicine training course every 5 years to keep up with the latest practices in responsible medicine use. At least 1 person on the unit must have undergone training in the last 5 years.

Please contact the surgery if your dairy farm assurance is due for renewal and you need to attend a course.

We shall be holding both Milksure and 'Responsible use of Medicine' courses in the coming months – the first 'Responsible use of Medicine' course is due to be held at the surgery on:

Date: Wednesday 5th March

Time: 11am-1pm

Cost: £30.00 excluding VAT.

Please contact the surgery to book your place.



CATTLE MEEING—MYCOPLASMA BOVIS

Mycoplasma Bovis (M Bovis) is a widespread bacterial disease that most commonly causes respiratory symptoms in calves and occasionally other chronic health issues such as head tilt, septic arthritis or mastitis. We have been carrying out Mycoplasma screening on numerous farms and finding evidence of exposure to infection on a significant proportion of those tested.

During the meeting we will be discussing the impact of Mycoplasma infection, its treatment and control including a new M Bovis vaccine on:



Tuesday 25th February at 12pm—2pm

Venue: Craven Arms, Giggleswick

Lunch provided. Please contact the surgery to book a place.
Kindly sponsored by Zoetis.

zoetis



PRACTICAL LAMBING MEETING WEDNESDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 6PM

Covering husbandry of the pregnant ewe and newborn lamb.
Top tips for lambing time preparations, and when and how we assist the birthing ewe.

Please contact the surgery if you would like to join us.

£30 plus VAT.



WWW.DALEHEADVETGROUP.CO.UK

