



# HALE VETERINARY GROUP

## FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010



### BOVINE ABORTION

The VLA (Veterinary Laboratories Agency) has informed us that they have recently seen a decrease in the number of cattle abortion submissions and are concerned that farmers are failing to report abortions. Therefore, we thought it would be sensible to remind our cattle farmers that **it is a legal requirement to report all cattle abortions to DEFRA** as soon as possible so that a Brucellosis enquiry can be carried out if necessary. In addition to the newsletter we have enclosed a leaflet produced by the VLA with more information on this.

Abortions in cattle can have a huge economic impact on farms – the average cost of an abortion has been estimated to be about £630.

An abortion is classed as the birth of a live/dead calf <271 days after service. A small number of abortions occur in all herds, but if the incidence of abortion is >3% or if several abortions occur in close succession then investigation is needed.

There are various causes of abortion in cattle – the main causes are summarised in the table below.

NON INFECTIOUS CAUSES	INFECTIOUS CAUSES
Physical trauma – eg. insemination Stress – eg. rough handling, heat stress Nutrition – Iodine deficiency, Vitamin E/Selenium deficiency Toxins – eg. nitrate/nitrite poisoning, poisonous plants (rape/kale) Genetic disorders – eg. bulldog calves	Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) Leptospirosis Neospora Brucellosis Salmonella Listeriosis

If you are concerned about an abortion outbreak in your herd speak to one of our farm animal vets and we can carry out an investigation to try and determine the cause, although this is not always possible.

We are also able to carry out routine bulk milk testing to assess exposure of your herd to some of the infectious diseases that cause abortion in cattle. The diseases we are currently able to test for are BVD, IBR and Leptospirosis. We recommend that this routine bulk milk testing is carried out on a quarterly basis. If the testing shows that your herd has been exposed to BVD, IBR or Leptospirosis we can produce a farm-specific disease control plan for you. This control plan will combine methods of eradicating the disease from your herd and preventing it from re-entering once it has been eradicated. Vaccines against BVD, IBR and Leptospirosis are available and can be used as part of the control plan.

Speak to one of our farm animal vets if you would like more information on abortion in cattle, routine bulk milk testing or farm-specific disease control plans.

### HVG HEALTH WATCH

We have continued to see a large number of cows with abomasal displacement this month and many of these cows were found to have concurrent ketosis. Ketosis results from cows being in negative energy balance, eg. due to poor feed intakes or poor feed quality, and can be a cause of abomasal displacement or a result of it. We have also seen a large number of cattle with New Forest Eye. This disease is transmitted by flies so we want to remind you all about the importance of fly control, especially at this time of year. We stock a wide range of fly control products at the practice so speak to one of the large animal co-ordinators if you would like to order some.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER/OTHER UPDATES BY E-MAIL PLEASE E-MAIL US AT: [halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk)**