



HALE VETERINARY GROUP

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010



CALLING ALL DAIRY FARMERS

Mastitis is currently the most costly disease on UK dairy farms and is estimated to cost the UK dairy industry in excess of 200 million pounds per year. As well as its huge economic impact, mastitis also has a serious impact on animal welfare so needs to be controlled. Dairy Co has recently launched the Dairy Co Mastitis Control Plan, which aims to develop a farm-specific mastitis control plan. Once the plan is in place mastitis records are analysed on a regular basis to monitor its success. Lucy and Rebecca are both registered plan users so speak to them for more information or see the enclosed leaflet.

- Avoid under-dosing animals.
- Only use wormers when they are required.
- Assess how effective wormers are by taking dung samples before and after treatment and assessing the reduction in faecal worm egg counts.
- Choose strategies for controlling worms that avoid the need to use wormers or reduce the use of wormers.
- Quarantine and treat bought-in animals with wormer and ensure that the wormer has been effective before mixing them into your herd.

Speak to one of our farm animal vets if you would like more information on the responsible use of wormers in farm animals.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF WORMERS

The increasing reliance of worm control on wormers has resulted in the development of resistance to some of the wormers currently available, for example fenbendazole and levamisole.

Recently the British Veterinary Association (BVA) has called for a more responsible approach to the use of wormers in farm animals to limit the development of resistance. The sheep industry has been promoting the responsible use of wormers for several years through the SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep) directive. Now the BVA is calling for the responsible use of wormers in the other farm animal species.

Various recommendations have been made to limit the development of resistance, including:

- Select an appropriate worming product that is active against the worms that are present.
- Choose a narrow-spectrum product where possible to reduce the risk of resistance developing to the broad-spectrum products.
- Avoid using combination products where possible.

HVG WEBSITE

We have recently updated the farm animal section of the practice website to provide our clients with information about the services we offer and the farm animal team. The website can be seen at: www.haleveterinaryhospital.co.uk. We are keen to hear any comments you have about the website so e-mail us at halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk.

HVG HEALTH WATCH

Calf pneumonia continued to be a problem in February. We also saw a high incidence of left displaced abomasum. Various factors predispose to left displaced abomasum, including: acidosis, toxæmia, ketosis and hypocalcaemia, and it is often classed as a multifactorial disease. There were also a large number of calving difficulties due to oversized calves. The risk of this can be reduced by selecting an easy calving bull and by ensuring animals do not become over-fat for calving.

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