



HALE VETERINARY GROUP

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2010



HERD HEALTH SERVICES

We are currently updating the herd health services we offer at the practice as we believe that herd health monitoring and planning is the key to optimising the health, welfare and productivity of your animals. Although most of our herd health services are used by our dairy clients, they are also available to our other farm animal clients. The herd health services we are now offering include:

- Routine fertility visits
- Herd/flock health monitoring
- Herd/flock health planning and development of farm-specific disease control plans
- Mastitis investigation and control using the "Dairy Co Mastitis Control Plan"
- Lameness investigation and control
- Nutritional assessment and advice
- Advice on rearing healthy youngstock for replacements.

We have also established the **Hale Healthy Herd Initiative**, which aims to "promote high standards of disease prevention and control through herd health monitoring and planning". For more information visit our website: www.haleveterinaryhospital.co.uk or e-mail: halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

On the 1st January 2010 new regulations came into force regarding the interpretation of TB tests. Speak to one of our farm animal vets for more information.

BLUETONGUE

The midge season will soon be upon us so it is time to order your bluetongue vaccine to ensure your animals

are protected before the high risk period begins. To order your bluetongue vaccine call the practice and speak to one of our large animal co-ordinators who will be able to help you. Fly control is also important during the high risk period so make sure you stock up on fly treatment.

HVG HEALTH WATCH

Each month we will now be updating you on the problems we have commonly encountered on farms. Problems encountered in January included:

- Calf pneumonia – this is likely to be due to the extreme weather conditions we have experienced as cold weather impairs the respiratory tract's natural defences against infection.
- Poor fertility performance – we have seen an increase in the number of cows not seen bulling and a decrease in conception rates. We believe this could be due to cold stress and cows being less keen to move out of their warm beds!
- Coccidiosis – this often increases in cold wet conditions like those we have been experiencing.

HVG FARMERS LINE

You may or may not be aware that we have a designated farmer's line which is answered by one of our large animal co-ordinators who will be able to deal with your call quickly and efficiently. The number is: **01249 658379** and the line operates Monday-Friday: 8.30-19.00 and Saturday: 8.30-12.00.

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