

Hale Veterinary Group

Farm Newsletter

November 2015



Sam attended the BCVA Congress last month where the focus was on the changing face of farm animal practice. There was plenty to see and learn. As always, TB was a heated subject, along with some interesting seminars focused on BVD and parasites.

Parasite Forecast

Liver Fluke

Below average rainfall in September has lead to a downward revision in the liver fluke risk. Sheep farms with a history of liver fluke will have found it necessary to treat with a triclabendazole drench in September/early October. In order to reduce the risk of establishing triclabendazole resistance, closantel or nitroxynil products should be used for any repeat treatments carried out in November/December. Cattle exposed to fluke should be treated after housing. If combination products are to be used, treatment should be delayed until at least 7weeks post housing if a second treatment is to be avoided.

Parasitic Gastroenteritis (PGE)

The dry September weather has also had an influence on nematode larva, possibly preventing their migration from the faecal pat. With the recent wet weather, contaminated pastures will now become infective with a flush of larva appearing on the pasture. In store and replacement lambs, outbreaks of PGE may be seen from late October onwards, with black foetid diarrhoea and rapid weight loss.

With the temperatures dropping, ingested Haemonchus larva will inhibit in the abomasal wall, with their development arrested. Development will resume in the spring if left untreated. As arrested larva will **not** produce any eggs at this time of year, faecal sampling will not reveal any worm eggs, therefore, flocks which have had haemonchus problems in the past should consider worming.

Growing cattle should be wormed at or post housing. The use of ivermectin wormers will treat both type 1 and 2 ostertagiasis and external parasites. As already mentioned, if using products which also combine a flukicide, treatment should be delayed or, the fluke treatment repeated later in the housing period.

Be aware of the risk of lungworm in any cattle still out as the wet weather will have released larva from the faecal pat. Long acting, injectable wormers have variable persistence against different worms. Animals treated at the beginning of the season will no longer be protected.

For more advice, speak to one of the farm team.

Neighbourhood Watch

- 2 cases of anthrax have been found on a farm near Westbury. The affected animals have been incinerated and movement restrictions put on the holding. The last outbreak in livestock in the UK was in Wales in 2006, also with 2 animals affected.

This case highlights the need for disease surveillance. More details can be found at www.gov.uk/guidance/anthrax-how-to-spot-and-report-the-disease

- Northern Ireland has recently been declared Brucellosis free. Surveillance testing will continue. The last outbreak of brucellosis in the UK mainland was in 2004
- Cases of bluetongue have been reported in central France, with 45 outbreaks occurring between September 11th and October 2nd. The Allier region in France has a dense population of beef cattle. Two of the affected farms have sheep only, with the remaining cases occurring on cattle or cattle and sheep farms. Defra's International Disease Monitoring (IDM) team are monitoring the situation.

Transmission of bluetongue is via the *Culicoides* midges. Meteorological modelling by the Met Office suggests that the risk to the UK is negligible. The model was rerun to include an area north of the current outbreak but again, the risk was found to be negligible.

- Routine testing has revealed a case of BSE in Wales. This shows that disease surveillance is important

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