

Farm Newsletter

April 2018



With most of us well underway with the lambing and calving and hoping for some warm sunshine to get the grass growing, it is worth mentioning that if you still need to collect your lambing order then fill in the list that was sent out with last month's newsletter.

As many of you know, Steve Carragher stepped down from being farm director at Christmas time and John Macfarlane has now agreed to take on the role, so congratulations to John.

We are pleased to have purchased a new tipping crush for cattle foot trimming. Its design is much improved from the previous one, allowing a more safe and effective way of turning bulls over to trim their feet. Bulls' feet should ideally be trimmed regularly and ideally a month before they are due to be turned out with cattle to help to ensure that they remain sound throughout the entire breeding season. The crush has a race attached to the back and once the bulls head is caught, the hydraulics roll the bull onto his side. With the legs then secured it allows the feet to be trimmed.

DIY ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION COURSE

John Macfarlane is organising another course to train farmers to carry out their own AI. There are a couple of people on the list but we need a few more to be able to run the course.

- **Date**—TBC but likely to be May
- **Venue**—TBC but will be within our practice area
- **Duration**—Up to 3 and a half days
- **Cost**—£445.+VAT but this includes a £50 voucher towards semen

Please contact John ASAP if you would like to attend this course—john.macfarlane@alnorthumbriavets.co.uk, or 01665 510999

VACCINATIONS UPDATE

BOVELA

I am sure that many of you are aware that the production of Bovidex has ceased so the new BVD vaccination we are using is Bovela. Since it is getting near the time for turnout here is a brief summary of Bovela.

- One shot every 12 months
- No need to booster heifers— just one shot primary course
- 2ml given intramuscularly
- Immunity kicks in 3 weeks after vaccination, so it must be given a minimum of 3 weeks before mating



SPIROVAC

Please ensure you have ordered your Spirovac vaccine to ensure you have enough vaccine for this year. There is a supply issue with another brand of vaccine which is likely to cause a shortage of Spirovac as a result.

ROTAVEC CORONA

Most will have used this already this year, but anyone yet to do so then again there are potential supply issues with this vaccine so we have some stock reserved should you still require it, but they won't last forever!

ZULVAC SBV (SCHMALLENBERG VACCINE)

The vaccine for Schmallenberg virus has become available again. It can be given to cattle and sheep over 3.5 months of age. In cattle, 2ml is given i/m with 2 doses given 3 weeks apart, onset of immunity is 2 weeks after vaccination. In sheep, 1ml is given s/c and it is a single dose course with onset of immunity 3 weeks after vaccination. Immunity lasts 6 months in sheep and 12 months in cattle. It comes in a 50ml pack, but the only batch made so far expires in July 2018.

PARASITE FORECAST

As the weather starts to warm up, worms and fluke will become an issue once again. We have purchased a computer programme from NADIS that allows us to access not just a generalised '**parasite forecast**' for the whole country, but also a far more specific postcode-specific forecast for your farm. This can be provided to you on a monthly basis by email if you are interested. If so, please contact Max at Alnwick—max.ling@alnorthumbriavets.co.uk

WORMING YOUNGSTOCK

With turnout fast approaching it is worth thinking ahead to the grazing season and your worm management for your youngstock. Youngstock in their first grazing season are typically more at risk from a high worm burden than older cattle. This is because they develop natural immunity to the gut worms over the first two grazing seasons. Due to this natural resistance, adult cattle harbour fewer gutworms and so shed less eggs onto the pasture. A consideration to make is the risk status of the pasture that the youngstock are to be turned out onto. If it is new grass lays then it poses a relatively low risk, however pasture grazed in the previous season by youngstock poses the highest risk. This is due to the presence of overwintered larvae on the pasture which are likely to infect the susceptible youngstock and go on to develop into adult gutworms. These then shed lots of eggs onto the pasture. The high burden means that signs such as diarrhoea, ill thrift and poor growth rates may be seen.

There are several options for worming youngstock:

1. Ideally youngstock should be turned out onto pasture with a low level of risk and faecal worm egg counts can be performed regularly to ascertain the worm burden within them and treatment can begin when the worm burden increases.
2. If the pasture is of higher risk then it is sensible to have a plan in place for the prevention of high worm burdens using one or a combination of the following products:
 - Enovex—A pour on that kills roundworms and lungworms. It has some persistent activity- *Trichostrongylus axei* and *Cooperia spp* (gutworms) for 14 days after treatment, *Ostertagia ostertagi* and *Oesophagostomum radiatum* (gutworms) for 21 days after treatment and *Dictyocaulus viviparis* (lungworm) for 28 days after treatment. It also controls horn flies for up to 35 days after treatment.
 - Cydectin 10% LA—Controls roundworms and lungworms as well as lice, mites and warbles. It provides protection from roundworms for a minimum of 90 days.
 - Autoworm First Grazer/ Autoworm Finisher—A bolus that releases a dose of wormer every 3 weeks throughout the grazing season
 - Albenil 2.5% SC—A short acting product that acts against roundworms, lungworms, tapeworm and adult liver fluke.
 - Levicide—A drench that targets roundworms and lungworms. Has no persistent activity so treatments may need to be repeated.
 - Ivomec Classic Injection—Persistent activity against roundworms and lungworms is seen. It gives the following protection; *Haemonchus placei*, *Cooperia spp.* and *Trichostrongylus axei* for 14 days, *Ostertagia ostertagi* and *Oesophagostomum radiatum* for 21 days, and lungworm for 28 days after treatment.

The products with persistent activity are more likely to cause resistance on farm since there will be a tail off period when the dose is too low to kill the gutworms but they will still be exposed to the drug. It is also important to consider rotating the group of anthelmintic used on farm to help to reduce the likelihood of resistance occurring. It may be possible to only worm the stock that are in poorer condition or not reaching the expected growth rate to help to reduce the likelihood of resistance.

Treatment for lungworm should be considered for later on in the summer if cases are known on the farm. Typically cases can be seen from June onwards. You can keep up to date with the parasite forecast in your area from NADIS. See information overleaf on how to sign up.

BVD FREE ENGLAND SCHEME UPDATE- “BVDFree Test Negative Herd Status”

On 28th March 2018 the BVDFree England Scheme (<https://bvdfree.org.uk/>) introduced a ‘BVDFree Test Negative Herd Status’ for farmers that have achieved two consecutive years of clear BVD herd tests. Prior to this, the Scheme’s database only showed if a farm was or wasn’t a member of BVDFree England and a negative status only if the farm was also PCHS accredited BVD free. To change your status then your vet can fill in the relevant form and it requires your signature to get the status changed.

Just a quick reminder: signing up to BVDFree England is free and can be done online or by post. Test results are uploaded to the database for a small fee and PCHS members can link their status for free.



Don't Forget to Use...

- **Baycox** for coccidiosis
- **Ovivac P** clostridial and *Pasteurella* vaccination for lambs
- **Cydectin 10% LA** turnout cattle wormer
- **Immunocol Platinum** colostrum replacer for calves and lambs