

Autumn calving is well underway and there hasn't been too many problems so far. For some, cow condition is not what it could be following the dry summer. If this is the case then it is worth considering whether there are other factors at play other than poor nutrition. Mineral deficiencies will contribute to poorly thriven animals as well as any worm or fluke burdens. We have seen in the last few weeks there has been a resurgence in worms following the rain so please be vigilant and bring in dung samples if you are concerned.

We are looking forward to seeing some of you at Alwinton Show on the 13th of October. Please drop by the stand and see us.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter **Meloxidyl** is the current alternative we have available to Flunixin that has been taken off the market. The dose rate is 2.5ml/100kg given subcutaneously or intravenously.

BVD Stamp It Out: New funding available to control BVD

This summer DEFRA has launched a new RDPE funded programme to tackle BVD in the English cattle herd. The funding is open to everyone, including farms that are already testing for BVD and that may already be members of BVDFree England and/or the PCHS. The project will consist of an initial and final cluster meetings, followed by two vet visits. The project will pay for a check test and there is some limited funding to search for PI animals if the first test shows evidence of infection in your herd. Everything will be free of charge, with the vet visits, time and lab fees funded through the project; however, attending the cluster meetings is essential to receive the funding.

We encourage everyone to join the programme, please contact us if you are interested. We will be introducing the project at the Farm Client Meetings this week.



Young Farm Workers Evening

We are holding a 'young farm workers' evening at the Anglers Arms, Weldon Bridge on Wednesday the 17th of October starting at 6.30pm. The topics for discussion are Johne's, BVD, Leptospirosis and IBR and the aim of the evening is to have a brief run through these diseases and the methods we have for diagnosis and control on farm. Dinner will be provided. Please email max.ling@alnorthumbriavets.co.uk if you are interested in attending.

New Vet for the South

Jodie McLean has just joined the team working mainly out our Morpeth Branch.
Here's what she has to say:

"Hi! I'm Jodie, a wee Glaswegian lass, and I have just moved to Alnorthumbria after two years of mixed practice in North Yorkshire. I work with all creatures great and small, though I have particular interests in cattle and sheep medicine. Outside of work, I love to cook and bake, as well as going to the gym and... drinking the odd gin. Always keen for a chat (and a decent cup of tea!)"

I am looking forward to getting stuck in at the practice, so keep an eye out for me out and about or at farmer meetings!"



Pneumonia in Calves at Housing

Bovine respiratory disease (better known as calf pneumonia) is a considerable cost to the beef industry. It can range from full blown clinical disease with the subsequent losses and reduced performance to underlying, sometimes unseen respiratory problems which may be less evident but can be just as costly. It is estimated to cost around £82 per suckler calf in an outbreak.

Pneumonia causes damage to the animal's respiratory tract and lungs, reducing its ability to breathe and at its worst, damage can be so great it results in death. At all levels, the disease can reduce feed intake, feed conversion rates and affect subsequent weight gain, increasing input costs, and time to finish.

The following organisms are behind bovine respiratory disease;

- **Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Parainfluenza III Virus**- Cause significant lung damage and make the lung susceptible to bacterial infection.
- **Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis**- This is caused by a virus and causes classic upper respiratory disease.
- **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea** – Causes immunosuppression allowing other organisms to cause disease.
- **Bacterial infection**– These are generally secondary invaders once lung has been damaged by a virus.
- **Mycoplasma bovis**-This is a bacteria with increasing importance and which can act as a primary agent
- **Dictyocaulus viviparus**- This is a parasite more commonly known as lungworm



There are many environmental factors which contribute to the situation too including poor housing or inadequate ventilation, environmental stressors, nutritional stress, management stress and finally bought in cattle bringing with them new organisms to the farm.

As a reminder for home-bred spring born suckler calves then a 5ml dose of Rispoval 4 intramuscularly repeated again 3-4 weeks later and at least 2 weeks before housing will give 6 months of protection against BRSv, PI3V, IBR and BVDv. For autumn born suckler calves then giving them Rispoval Intranasal (2ml intranasal) from 9 days of age will give 12 weeks of protection against BRSv and PI3v. If ongoing protection is required then from 12 weeks of age the Rispoval 4 vaccine can be used in the same schedule as above.

Post-Mortem Training with Ben Strugnell– Iain Brady

CPD (or continual professional development) is an important part of a vet's continued learning in practice. The latest day of training was a day with Ben Strugnell in his post-mortem room and lab at Warrens ABP in Hamsterley, County Durham which myself and Eilidh attended along with eight other vets from various practices across the north of England.

The day consisted of a morning of post-mortems on animals which had been brought in for carcass disposal followed by an afternoon of lectures and discussion regarding both cattle and sheep. An eye opening point for all of us was the volume of dead stock which was not presented for post mortem but that had a cause of death which, if diagnosed and reported to the farmer, could have provided cost effective management changes – particularly at this time of year where most of the sheep in particular were either fattening lambs nearing factory weight or worse again, rams which should be preparing for the breeding season. The loss of either of these will have been a significant cost to the farmer and without post-mortem many of these farms will have further at risk animals and no way of having a definitive means of preventing the same happening in the near future.

Worms, nephroliths (kidney stones) and acidosis (in barley fed/finishing lambs) and septicaemia (from feet infections/dirty needles/mastitis causing localised, lung, heart and kidney abscesses) were a few of the easily preventable conditions we witnessed in the post mortems.

Overall the day was useful and informative and the opportunity to discuss some of our more weird and wonderful cases with Ben and other vets in different regions was also interesting. We realised the value of post-mortems in fallen stock as it gives the ability to rule out diseases making it a worthwhile exercise in most cases.

Don't Forget to Use

- **Cattle pneumonia vaccines** e.g. Rispoval 4 (or ideally intranasal vaccines if cattle are vaccinated upon housing e.g. Rispoval Intranasal, Tracherine)
- **Endofluke** cattle fluke treatment
- **Enovex** pour-on wormer
- **Combinex, Fasimec and Endofluke** fluke treatments for sheep

Stockperson of the Month

A while ago we used to feature stockperson of the month in our farm newsletter which I would like to start off again. This months award goes to Drew and Mary Bell for farming together for x years Congratulations, a bottle of bubbly is making its way to you shortly.