



alnorthumbria  
veterinary group

# Newsletter

May 2019

Most of us are starting to think about spring turnout if not already getting the stock out. Make sure that you have done your 'BVD Stamp it Out' blood samples (5 from each batch of calves aged 9-18 months of age) before turnout to avoid having to bring stock back in.

Congratulations to Tommy Thompson from Howick Seahouses farm who won the Champion beast at Acklington Mart's Spring cattle show, which we sponsored, with his Limousin Heifer.

We have seen a few cases of *Nematodirus* so far in lambs so remember to be vigilant and hand dung samples in to your local branch from batches of lambs that are scouring to check for the cause to get the right treatment for your flock. Unfortunately, *Nematodirus* can cause deaths even before eggs are seen in faeces so this requires extra vigilance.

## Don't Forget to Use...

- **Clik, Clickzin, Ectofly, Dysect, Clik Extra Pour On** sheep pour-ons for blowfly etc.
- **Swish or Spotinor** to prevent fly problems in cattle.
- Worming and anti-coccidials for lambs.
- **Ovivac P** vaccinations for lambs.
- Boluses and injections to prevent trace element deficiencies.



## *Pain Management in Calves: Disbudding and Castration*

As you are all aware it is an offence to not use local anaesthetic when castrating calves over 2 months of age or when disbudding calves except when using caustic paste. The local anaesthetic will act to reduce the immediate pain that the calf will feel following either of these procedures but it will not help manage the pain once the local anaesthetic has worn off (lasts about 50 minutes).

Recent recommendations are that a local anaesthetic and a longer acting pain relief should be given at the time of disbudding or castrating. The longer acting pain relief available to us at the moment is **Meloxidyl**. This is given as a single subcutaneous injection at a rate of 2.5ml/100kg.

The use of Meloxidyl will accelerate the time to normal feeding and reducing stress meaning there will be less of a dip in growth rate and live-weight of the calf following castration or dehorning compared to using local anaesthetic alone.



## Salmonella: Spot it and Stop it

*Salmonella* can be devastating in cattle herds, such is the potential scale and severity of an infection. There is also a risk to people and outbreaks can have serious public health implications.

The signs of *Salmonella* infection are varied and not always obvious as they can be the same as those caused by many other diseases, so it is vital to contact the practice if you spot any of them, particularly:

Diarrhoea

Pneumonia,

Abortion

Milk drop

Blood poisoning

Death

Joint infections

They may affect any age, from young calves to adults so keep *Salmonella* in mind when you spot signs in all age groups.

### Diagnostic testing

Depending on the signs of disease shown, different samples may be taken and sent to the laboratory to get an idea if *Salmonella* is circulating on your farm and if it is responsible for the clinical signs you are seeing.

*Salmonella* may be diagnosed via bulk milk testing, blood samples, tissue, faeces and post mortems. Analysis of aborted materials is also very valuable.

### Biosecurity

*Salmonella* bacteria are easy to introduce to the herd and difficult to eradicate. They are shed in faeces with times of stress, such as calving and transport; triggering a spread of infection from carrier animals. *Salmonella*

can be introduced to a farm by replacement stock, birds or rodents, feedstuffs or watercourses, muck or slurry, and even on clothing or vehicles.

Checking the health status of source farms when buying in stock is critical, whilst other aspects of biosecurity should also apply, including quarantine and stringent hygiene on farm.

### Vaccination

Prevention is much more effective than an attempted cure with *Salmonella*, therefore vaccination is an important part of an overall herd management programme.

Ask us what's best for your herd.

Getting started with vaccination is simple with a 2 dose primary course, followed by a single dose annual booster, essential to maintain continuous protection.

*Salmonella* is not going away any time soon, but the good news is that you can take many steps to reduce the risks of disease outbreaks.

Contact the practice to make sure you have the right plan in place to protect your stock, your farm workers and yourself.



## Red Tractor Farm Assurance Medicines Course

For those of you who were unable to make our previous meetings we are putting on one final meeting in June. Red Tractor recommends that at least 1 staff member responsible for administering medicines attends this course and certificates will be issued afterwards. Please contact your local branch if you would like to attend and we'll update you with arrangements.