



alnorthumbria
veterinary group

Newsletter

November 2019

With the shorter working days and darker nights, winter truly is upon us. The mild temperatures and continuing dampness are giving rise to excellent conditions for pneumonia in both sheep and cattle. While some cattle may be housed, some may be trying to extend the grazing period. We recommend intranasal dosing of pneumonia vaccination at housing, if a previous course has not already been completed in calves. In lambs, a booster vaccination with Ovivac P now should help control *Pasturella* pneumonia.

In the practice, our usual winter jobs have started in earnest – PD'ing of spring calving herds is going well, with generally good results following the favourable summer. TB testing and Johne's blood sampling in herds is also well underway.

FLUKE ALERT

We can confirm the first cases of acute fluke have been diagnosed this year. This disease is caused by high numbers of immature fluke migrating through the liver and causing damage. Clinical signs associated with acute fluke include sudden death, lethargy and reduced grazing. Faecal egg counts are not useful in diagnosing acute fluke, due to the fact the fluke are not producing eggs. Copro-antigen ELISA, a blood test, can be used in this year's lambs to assess for recent fluke exposure. If you have any concerns, please contact your local branch.

DON'T FORGET TO USE

Pneumonia vaccines — Two doses of *Rispoval 4* four weeks apart ideally finishing two weeks before housing. If this is not possible, intranasal vaccination such as *Rispoval Intranasal* at housing. A booster of *Ovivac P* or *Ovipast* can also be used in lambs, to reduce the risk of *Pasturella* pneumonia.

Fluke treatment – Following the recent diagnosis of acute fluke in the region, it would be prudent to treat with triclabendazole-containing products if animals have been on typical 'flukey ground' to treat for immature fluke.

Trace element boluses – These can be given if there are known deficiencies though care should be taken not to over-supplement especially with copper, as this can cause toxicity.

Dates for the Diary!

We are proud to sponsor and support many events across the county over the year. Here's another date for the diary:

Pedigree Flock Meeting

Monday 11th November

At The Anglers Arms, Weldon Bridge, the evening will feature a talk on Vimco Sheep Mastitis vaccine, Johne's in sheep and an overview of artificial insemination in sheep and cattle. Refreshments provided at 7pm.

Kindly sponsored by Hipra. Please RSVP to your local branch if interested.

Past Events

Young Farmer Workers' Talk

Tuesday 29th October

This was very well attended as usual with topics including Farm Matters computer software, biosecurity and disinfectants. Look out for future meetings — free for all 'young' people to attend!

Alwinton Show

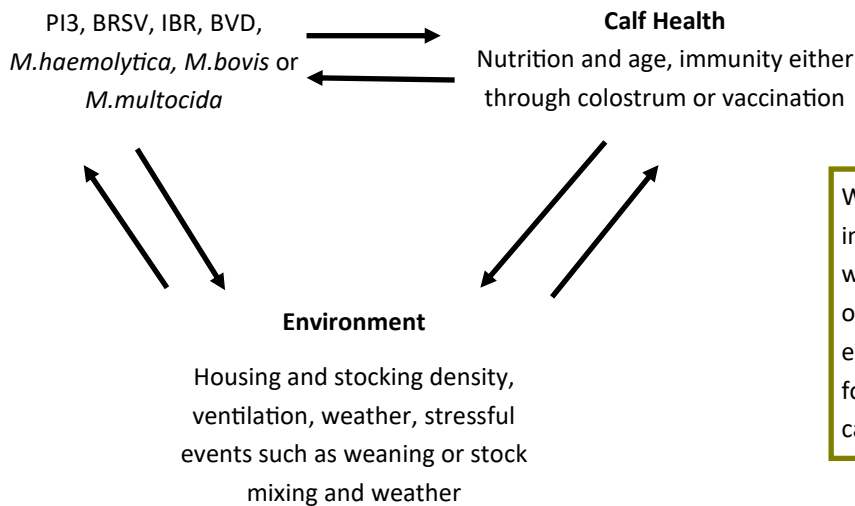


Respiratory Disease in Youngstock — Jodie McLean

Cattle, due to their relatively small lung size in proportion to body size, are prone to the effects of respiratory disease and suffer production loss because of this. At this time of year, we often see respiratory disease in newly housed youngstock, and throughout housing may see disease in all ages of cattle.

The factors affecting occurrence of disease in youngstock are outlined in the diagram below. Ideally, addressing all aspects of these risk factors, whether through appropriate ventilation, vaccination pre-housing or at housing or other means, is the way in which to prevent and control respiratory disease. With a wide range of vaccines available for both intranasal and intramuscular injection, finding a regime tailored to your herd is possible.

Infectious Causes of Pneumonia



Why is controlling respiratory disease important? Not only are there costs associated with production loss and medication at the time of clinical signs, but there is also a knock-on effect on that animal's productivity, potentially for life with reduced growth rates and in dairy cattle, reduced milk yields.

Diagnosis of Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma — Daisy Rankin

Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA) is a contagious lung tumour caused by the Jaagsiekte Sheep Retrovirus (JSR). The disease presents itself with signs of wasting and nasal discharge, progressing to respiratory distress as the tumours take up space in the lungs and secrete large volumes of fluid. Signs of OPA are most commonly seen in sheep of 3 to 4 years old and transmission occurs through the aerosol route as well as in colostrum and milk.

Most of us are familiar with the "Wheelbarrow Test" as a way of identifying sheep affected with OPA, whereby the sheep's hindquarters are raised above its head, producing fluid from both nostrils. However, the test will not identify sheep in the early stages of OPA infection, and it has been shown that even in the advanced stages of the disease, one third of sheep affected by OPA will not produce any fluid. Welfare concerns have also been raised about this method of diagnosis, with sheep struggling to breathe and dying soon after the test is performed.

Animals affected with OPA do not produce an antibody response to the virus, ruling out many common methods of detection, however, ultrasound scanning is becoming more commonly used to identify affected animals. Ultrasound screening to look for lung lesions means that the disease can be detected before clinical signs become apparent, enabling infected animals to be removed from the flock whilst still in reasonable body condition and still fit to travel, whilst also limiting transmission to other sheep. Scanning has been shown to detect tumours down to 2cm in size and at the same time can be used to rule out or treat any other lung pathologies that may be present.

This quick and easy technique alongside maintaining a closed flock or purchasing from OPA free sources, keeping animals in groups of similar ages, and good biosecurity could help reduce losses due to OPA on many farms.

