



Highgate Veterinary Clinic

Farmers Newsletter - March 2007

Spring is in the air?

Turnout is just around the corner (honest) and its time to plan for the event.

Vaccination is a valuable and cost effective way to control disease and there are at least two vaccines you should consider this month.



Leptospirosis



The hype around this disease was at its height ten years ago but it hasn't disappeared. 70% of herds tested have leptospirosis but only 30% vaccinate. Don't just think it's a disease of dairy cows, beef cows can get it as well. Leptospirosis causes abortion, milk drop and infertility.

Eblex recently estimated that improving the fertility of the national beef herd would result in a saving equivalent to over 30p per kg extra on the calves sold.

In addition, leptospirosis is a zoonosis i.e. it can spread to humans. Symptoms are usually those of extremely bad flu but meningitis and death can occur. One person in the UK died last year from catching lepto. This has implications for your staff and their protection. Even if you work alone, if you become ill for several weeks, who's going to look after the stock?

Why not find out whether your stock is infected? Bulk milks and bloods can be tested free of charge courtesy of Schering Plough Animal Health. Vaccination with Leptavoid H will protect your cattle, your margins and your health.

Husk



Because of the random way husk can strike, worming with anthelmintics against lungworm can be very risky and expensive. A more effective way is to vaccinate youngstock with Huskvac before turnout. Two doses are required 4 weeks apart and the last shot at least 2 weeks before turnout. This vaccine effectively gives life long protection against lungworm and gives everyone peace of mind.

Worming Cattle and Sheep

Getting a worming regime can be complicated and expensive. We often feel that farmers receive the wrong advice about worming cattle and they often over use wormers, - which obviously means more expense but also could lead to worm resistance.

Things change as products disappear off the market and others appear.

Please contact us to discuss your worming regime (cattle or sheep). The resulting discussion may save you money.

Enzootic Abortion Vaccine Special Offer

For a very limited period and with limited stock, Ceva Chlamydia vaccine is available at £2 per dose (usually £2:40).

This vaccine can only be used in non pregnant sheep so it is only suitable for your hogs that are not in lamb.

Please contact Mark before April for the details.

Coccidiosis in Lambs



Scouring in young lambs is often (but not always) caused by coccidiosis.

There are a few control methods but many of you are finding Vecoxan to be very effective and convenient to use. The problem is that the smallest bottle is a litre, which can treat 100's of lambs.

This year, to encourage more of you to experience the benefits of Vecoxan, we will dispense out of a litre bottle so you can buy as little as you like.

Please phone the surgery before collecting Vecoxan to avoid waiting for us to dispense it.

This Month: March



Calf pneumonia is still a drain on calf productivity. Consider using Rispoval intranasal on young calves for rapid protection.



Its not too late to join our lambing club. £120 to have your lamb beds, lambings and sick lambs treated.



Look out for displaced abomasums in dairy cattle, we're seeing a lot at the moment.