



Highgate Veterinary Clinic

Farmers Newsletter - September 2007

Enzootic Abortion Vaccines – Which one should you choose?



There are three vaccines in the UK against enzootic abortion of the ewe (EAE) and there appears to be little evidence that any of them give better or longer protection than the others so the choice is often made on price.

But there are differences which are important. Mydiavac is a dead vaccine where as the others are live vaccines. It is therefore possible to vaccinate pregnant ewes with Mydiavac without causing abortion. In fact, Mydiavac can be used in late pregnancy as part of a strategy to reduce abortion rate even in the face of an outbreak.

Enzovax and CEVA chlamydia are very similar both being live vaccines made from the same strain of Chlamydia. There was a price difference but due to price reductions, this is no longer the case. The biggest difference now is whether they are licensed to be used with Toxovax. Intervet will not guarantee Toxovax's efficacy if it is given with any abortion vaccine other than Enzovax.

In recent studies in England, of the flocks that tested for the cause of abortion, half had EAE and three quarters had toxoplasmosis. This means that there's a good chance you should be vaccinating against both diseases. In which case we strongly recommend you use Enzovax as your choice of EAE.

Westmorland County Show



It was a pity that Kirkby Lonsdale and Grayrigg shows were victims of FMD movement restrictions but it's good that the county show will go ahead this year with stock being present. It promises to be a busy day with entries at record levels.

We're having a stand in the usual place (G209). Please feel welcome to come along, have a drink, a seat and a chat.

This year we're raising money for a very local charity. Endmoor Community First Responders are volunteers that are called out regularly when anyone calls 999 with possible heart of breathing problems. As they are local, they attend a patient quicker than the ambulance and are able to administer oxygen and use a defibrillator if necessary. Money for equipment has to be raised by the team. So please give generously.

Mastitis Treatments – Should you include an Injection?



When three farmers in two days mention that their cows are starting to cough, alarm bells start to ring. Is this just dusty cake, IBR, "a bit of a chill" or lungworm? It's not always an easy question to answer.

Coughing cattle at grass from late July onwards could well have lungworm. Diagnosis is not always simple. Larvae in the faeces are only detected if adult worms are in the lungs but coughing can occur before the worms reach maturity. The antibody levels in blood can indicate if the cattle have been exposed to lungworm but is not able to tell you when. Even cattle vaccinated as calves can still cough due to lungworm under certain circumstances.

So what's the answer? Well up to now in these three herds, I've advised wait and see as milk yield has not been affected and there are no sick animals. Treating a few coughers with wormer e.g. Eprinex in lactating dairy cows and seeing if they get better may be a way to make a diagnosis. If it's youngstock that are coughing at this time of year, I wouldn't hesitate to worm them before anything became ill

This Month: September



Fluke sheep this month with a product that will kill all stages of fluke in the ewe.

Consider rotating fluke drugs to reduce the chance of resistance developing.



Keep a lookout for diarrhoea and ill thrift in calves caused by coccidiosis



Look out for lungworm in all ages of cattle.