



HIGHGATE VETERINARY CLINIC— Farmer Newsletter

October 2009

173 Highgate
Kendal
LA9 4EN
Tel. 01539 721344
www.highgate-vets.co.uk

Clinic opening times

Monday—Friday

8.30am—7.30pm

Saturday

9.00am—12.30am

Sunday

emergencies only

Westmorland

Show

We raised over £100 for charity on show day and won the runner up award for best small agricultural stand. Thank you for your support.

Animal health and welfare planning linked to E.U. grants

Grants of up to £12,000 per farm are available from an EU funded scheme aimed at improving farm animal health and welfare.

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) North-West Livestock Programme is available to all dairy, sheep, beef and pig farmers in the North West.

The aim is to work closely with the farmers own vet (provided they participate in the programme and an SAC adviser to identify and justify RDPE capital expenditure performance grants for health and welfare investments on farm.

Mark has just started training to be able to deliver the plan and is due to complete the sheep section by 21st October, dairy by 6th November and beef by 13th November.

For an initial payment of £160 + VAT you get a package including:

- An interactive web based health plan for your main enterprise
- Your vet's time to prepare the plan
- Specialist adviser time
- Up to £250 of sample analysis (e.g. blood, milk, faeces and fodder)
- Once you've received the plan you can apply for grants at 40% of the cost of the project.

If interested please contact SAC on 0845 6040 535 to register on the programme and RDPE on 01768 861306 to obtain a grant application pack.

Mark says, *"This is a great way to kick start your herd and flock health planning and get financial support to help implement it. Don't get this confused with health plans for farm assurance. The aim is not to produce a large document no one reads, but to help you improve your business by having healthier, more productive stock."*

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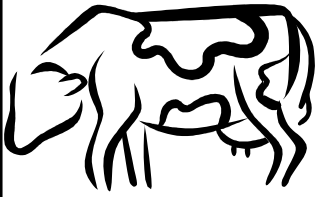
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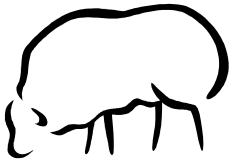
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This Month

Look out for staggers.

Remember to vaccinate youngstock for pneumonia before it becomes a problem. We recommend Riospoval 4.



Semen test rams if there is any doubt about their fertility rather than lose time with breeding ewes.

New way to tackle mastitis in dairy**COWS**

Mastitis in dairy cows is not a new problem, but there are new ways to tackle it, and we've recently invested in training in the most up to date method of diagnosing and treating the problem.

The new DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan (DMCP) aims to reduce incidence of mastitis by 20% on farms where it is used. The DMCP involves looking at farms individually and developing a plan that prioritises actions. This means that the actions which will have the most significant impact on mastitis cases on your farm are taken first.

Using the plan involves us working with you, the farmer, to fill out an extensive questionnaire on all aspects of management and husbandry on the farm. Then we collect aseptic milk samples from clinical cases and high cell count cows.

We also work with you to look at the environment around the cows and the milking routine in the parlour, and together we collect data on cow-side observations such as body condition scores and teat end scores.

By gathering such a lot of information about a specific unit the DMCP can then provide an individual solution to tackle mastitis that is designed specifically for your farm.

The costs of clinical mastitis can be worked out for individual herds and are often in the range of £150 to £300 per case. In DairyCo trials of the Mastitis Control Plan that took place on 52 herds, the average number of incidents of mastitis decreased by 22% compared to the control farm over 12 months, and by 36% on those farms which continued to implement more of the plan. That could be a significant saving for your farm.

If you'd like to talk to us about implementing the DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan on your farm then please call Mark.

Liver fluke This year promises to be a corker for liver fluke; treat sheep now if you haven't already done so.

At the beginning of this year there was a concern that fluke were becoming resistant to triclabendazole (the drug in Fasinex and similar generics). This is unlikely to be so.

The problem is that triclabendazole is not active against fluke. It has to be processed by the liver to become the active ingredient. So if you treat a sheep with severe liver damage due to fluke with triclabendazole, it will not be activated and will not work.

Triclabendazole is still the best drug to use at this time of year as it kills all fluke stages in the sheep. Later in the season, other drugs e.g. Flukiver may be more appropriate.

Cattle are not immune to fluke damage. Although they rarely drop dead from fluke, production can be affected. Unexplained poor body condition, poor milk production or low butter fat among other things may be due to fluke. We've already identified fluke infestations in several herds. This can be done via a bulk milk sample, blood or faeces. If in doubt, let's have some samples so we know if treatment is required.

Blood, Sweat and Tears – A new calf syndrome

A new syndrome in calves was recently described by VLA Penrith in their monthly newsletter to vets.

We have seen a case recently. A week old beef x dairy calf initially presented as pneumonia and recovered rapidly with antibiotic and flunixin only to relapse in 48 hours. This time it also presented with calf diphtheria which used to be common but rarely fatal. The calf died within the next 48 hours but was noticed by the farmer to be oozing blood from the skin at the back of the head and also the rump where it had been injected.

Post mortem showed that yes, the calf had significant lung damage and infected cheek tissue, but the carcass was very pale and there were other areas of bleeding under the skin.

The cause of the condition is unknown so it is important that any cases are reported to us so that we can relay information back to VLA Penrith. VLA centres throughout England and Wales are a subsidised laboratory network whose role it is to monitor the disease status of our livestock industry and investigate novel diseases.

Rearing more lambs—the key to profitability

Managing the dairy cow at around calving

Free meetings sponsored by Defra and organised by ADAS for farmers and herdsmen.

The sheep industry in the UK continues to lose large numbers of lambs, many due to infectious abortion or inadequate feeding. Between 15 to 20% of lambs are lost between scanning and sale with losses as high as 30% in extreme cases.

This is not only of financial concern to farm businesses and the sheep industry as a whole but is also an issue in terms of animal welfare.

Correct nutrition, good husbandry and disease control all contribute to reducing lamb losses. Effective vaccines are available to prevent and control many diseases. Condition scoring and correct feeding through pregnancy and lactation can optimise health and welfare, increase foetal weight, improve colostrum quality and milk yield and consequently maximise lamb growth and performance. The incidence of conditions like prolapse, twin lamb disease and hypocalcaemia may be reduced by correct feeding and management.

The scope to reduce lamb losses, improve sheep health and welfare and consequently increase profitability will be the main theme of the meetings. The focus will be on the period from 8 weeks before lambing to 6 weeks post lambing.

Short presentations on increasing lamb survival rates will be delivered by ADAS sheep consultants and nationally recognised sheep veterinary surgeons with opportunities for discussions.

VENUE Westmorland County Agric Soc Ltd, Lane Farm, Crooklands, Milnthorpe, Cumbria LA7 7NH

DATE Tues 19th Jan 2010

TIME 19.30-21.30 hrs

PROGRAMME

- Introduction
- ADAS Livestock Specialist - The scope to reduce lamb losses
- Specialist Sheep Veterinary Surgeon - Veterinary care around lambing
- Discussion

Profitable milk production depends to a large extent on a successful calving; with no nutritional upsets and good general cow health at this time. Although there is good awareness that many problems are linked to conditions at calving, many farms still have far more problems than they should.

The target should be to have no cases of conditions such as milk fever, retained cleansings, endometritis and displaced abomasums and to minimise the incidence of mastitis in early lactation. All of which incur veterinary and loss of income associated with reduced milk yield, disappointing fertility and even death of the animal.

Cow management should be programmed so that during the latter stages of lactation attention is focused on the next calving. Cow body condition, nutrition, health and drying off should all be considered.

The meeting will look at the practical steps that should be taken to ensure that at calving the dairy cow is in a state that will enable profits to be maximized. The events take place on-farm to provide the opportunity to see cows at different stages of lactation and to discuss the practical management issues relating to nutrition and cow health. Please bring clean foot wear capable of being dipped.

VENUES & DATES

Woodhouse Farm, Catterlen, **Penrith**, CA11 0BE

Tuesday 3rd November

OR

Myerscough College, **Bilsborrow**, Preston, PR3 0RY

Thursday 5th November

TIMES

10.15 am—12.30pm OR 1.15 pm—3.30pm

The programme is repeated in the afternoon session.

PROGRAMME

- Arrival (coffee/tea)
- Managing the cow in late lactation
- Managing the cow in the early dry period
- Managing the cow pre-calving
- Managing the cow in early lactation
- Discussion & Close

**PLEASE CALL ADAS ON 01974 282 229 TO BOOK
NUMBERS ARE LIMITED SO PLEASE BOOK EARLY**