



HIGHGATE VETERINARY CLINIC—Farm Newsletter

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

Clinic opening times

Monday-Friday
8.30 am—7.30 pm
Saturday
9.00 am—12.30 pm
Sunday
Emergencies only



Ringworm

In the past week, I've seen two separate cases of severe ringworm in dairy heifers. This is a good time of year to have an outbreak. Turnout exposes the stock to ultraviolet light and spring grass which seems to help calves recover quickly.



Despite it's name this is a fungal infection caused by several fungi but only one (*T. verrocosum*) tends to cause problems in cattle. It survives off the animal for years in wood and rough walls in buildings. Once an animal has recovered, immunity lasts for about seven years (a lifetime).

Treatment options are pretty limited. Griseofulvin the oral treatment is no longer licensed for food producing animals (it's carcinogenic). Mycophyte the topical treatment has also been withdrawn from the market. This leaves Imaverol a topical

wash and Ringvac. Ringvac is a vaccine which is very effective as a preventative drug but can also be used as a treatment to stimulate the stirk's immunity to fight off infection. We've even used it in show sheep with ringworm on their faces.

Hanging holly within buildings as a cure and prevention is an old remedy that I can't see how it works at all.

Other preventative measures include building hygiene, steam cleaning, white washing and creosoting help to kill fungal spores. If wood can be removed and left out in the summer sun, this also will kill the fungus.



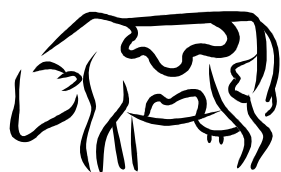
Inside this issue:

Ringworm	1
Cattle Parentage	2
Selenium Supplementation	2

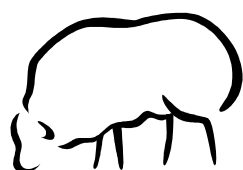


This Month:

- ◇ Ensure cows are supplemented with magnesium at turnout to prevent staggers.



- ◇ Fluke treatment of sheep (and cattle) this month will reduce the number of eggs laid on the ground this summer and so reduce problems next winter.



- ◇ Look out for scour in lambs and ensure you know the cause before wasting money and time on the wrong treatment.

Don't get caught in the parentage trap

There are at least 18,000 UK cattle currently known to be without valid passports, and therefore legally un-saleable, according to the British Cattle Movement Service. As you will know, a first-time passport application for animals 28 days of age onwards, or an appeal against a rejected passport application, both have to be accompanied by proof of parentage from an authorised source. Please refer to BCMS for a detailed account of the process.

To avoid last minute panic as you prepare animals for sale and a missing passport cannot be found, we are prompting all clients to check their records now. If any are missing they

can be applied for and replaced in good time.

For the parentage check, blood samples are required from the animal itself and the dam. Kits for this purpose from Pfizer Animal Genetics are available off-the-shelf from the practice pharmacy. You can order a kit from the practice through Mark. Results are posted directly back to you from the Pfizer Animal Genetic's laboratory. If there is anything you need to clarify, please let Mark know.



Selenium Supplementation improves meat colour

Recent research from Northern Ireland has shown that supplementing ewes in early pregnancy with selenium improved the meat quality of their lambs at slaughter. A study by Hillsborough Agrifood and Biosciences showed that plane of nutrition in early pregnancy did not influence the meat quality of lambs. But selenium supplementation did increase the redness of the meat which may improve keeping qualities. Plane of nutrition in the first half of pregnancy did improve carcass quality. Ewes on better nutrition did produce lambs with better carcass conformation and less fat depth. If you are concerned that mineral deficiencies such as selenium may be affecting the efficiency of your lamb production, please phone the surgery to arrange for blood sampling.