

Medicine News

Gamaret Milking Cow Tubes

Many cattle farmers will be well aware of supply issues severely limiting the choice of mastitis tubes available.

Fortunately, using an import licence, we have been able to source a tube very similar to Tetra Delta and Multiject in formulation. It is broad spectrum and can be used to treat Streptococcal, Staphylococcal and E coli mastitis. The data sheet instructions are to tube the affected quarter and repeat once 24-48 hours later if required. The milk withdrawal is 72 hours. Meat withdrawal is 7 days.



Staff News

Last week saw us waving goodbye to Lauren as she starts a new job with AHDB in South Wales.

We wish her well in her new job and thank her for all the hard work she has put in both in the office and on farm.

This month sees vet David Hesketh making a welcome return to the team for the summer.

Ubro Red Replaced By Ubrostar Red

Ubro Red dry cow tubes have been discontinued but have been replaced by Ubrostar Red DC Tubes.

They can effectively be used in the same way for antibiotic therapy but due to slight changes in the penicillin content of the tubes, the withdrawal period of Ubrostar Red is different. Milk withdrawal is now 35 days plus 36 hours after calving. Meat withdrawal is 10 days.

Wormers & Fly Control Deals

We have some great seasonal deals on these wormers and fly control products for cattle and sheep

Ivermectin Pour On

- Enovex
- Virbamec
- Noromectin

Levamisole Sheep

- Oral Drench
- Levacur SC 2.5%

Ivermectin Sheep

- Oral Drench
- Noromectin

Benzimidazole Sheep

- Oral Drench
- Endospec 2.5%

Ivermectin Injection

- Noromectin Injection
- Bimectin Injection

Fly Spot On

- Spotinor

Dairy Cow Pour On

- Eprizero

We also offer advice on worm and fluke control using the latest SCOPS and COWS research. If you are unsure whether you need to worm or suspect that your usual wormer is not effective then we can carry out Faecal Egg Counts (FECs) to make sure you are using the right wormer at the right time. Contact the Daleside team for more information.

Coronavirus Update



Coronavirus Update

As everybody labours under the constraints brought about by the present outbreak we would like to thank our clients for their cooperation.

Most clients are using the delivery service for medicines, otherwise you can arrange to collect them from the secure collection box at the practice. Please call before 12pm for medicines to be collected from the practice in the afternoon, and by 12pm the day before the delivery service, which runs on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Here are a few other areas that have had to change while lockdown conditions are in force:

Health Plans

Boris isn't the only one using modern technology to hold important meetings! Due to Coronavirus restrictions we are not able to review flock or herd health plans face to face, but we can review them via an online Zoom video conference call. You will need a computer or device with internet

access, a microphone, speaker and camera.

Contact the farm team for more details.

We will send you a form so you can gather the necessary herd performance data before the review. You will also receive an email with the internet address for the meeting and the time. At the appointed time, paste this address into your web browser and the meeting can begin.

Account Payments

During this unprecedented time we are asking clients, where possible, to please pay bills online rather than by cheque. This minimises the coronavirus risks in money handling and visits to the bank. Please contact the office on 01978 311444 for further details.

APHA Advice on TB Testing

During the current virus outbreak, APHA continues to class TB testing as an essential service and as long as Coronavirus protocols such as maintaining a distance of at least 2m between people can be followed, testing continues as normal. Below is a summary of some of the key points relating to TB testing during the present outbreak:

APHA is asking vets to have a conversation with farmers and carry out a risk assessment before visiting the farm, to ensure that it is safe and practical to carry out TB testing whilst observing



the advice on social distancing. Farmers can help by ensuring that they have good animal handling facilities in place to minimise human to human contact. They should observe social distancing advice and stay at least two metres (six feet) apart from the vet when the testing is being carried out. It is advised that the minimum number of people attend the test whilst maintaining safe handling of the animals.

If you are required to self-isolate at home because you have symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature and/or a new, continuous cough) or due to someone in your household showing symptoms of COVID-19; or due to your age, a long-term health condition, pregnancy or a weakened immune system please contact us to discuss rearranging your TB test. If the test cannot be rearranged within your testing window we will contact APHA so this can be recorded.

If routine tests cannot be completed in the window in Wales there is no change to the testing window for officially TB free (OTF) herds, but cattle keepers wishing to test up to 30 days before the testing window opens can do so by contacting APHA. In England APHA will allow the closing date of a testing window to be delayed on a case by case basis on one occasion only. Such adjustments will be permitted for tests that are allocated over the next three months. After this period, testing instructions will revert to normal, unless advised otherwise.

If it's not possible to complete your TB test within the window, due to genuine COVID-19 related reasons the test will still become overdue, whole herd movement restrictions are automatically applied and the herd's officially TB free status is suspended (OTFS) until the test of all eligible animals in the herd is completed with negative results.

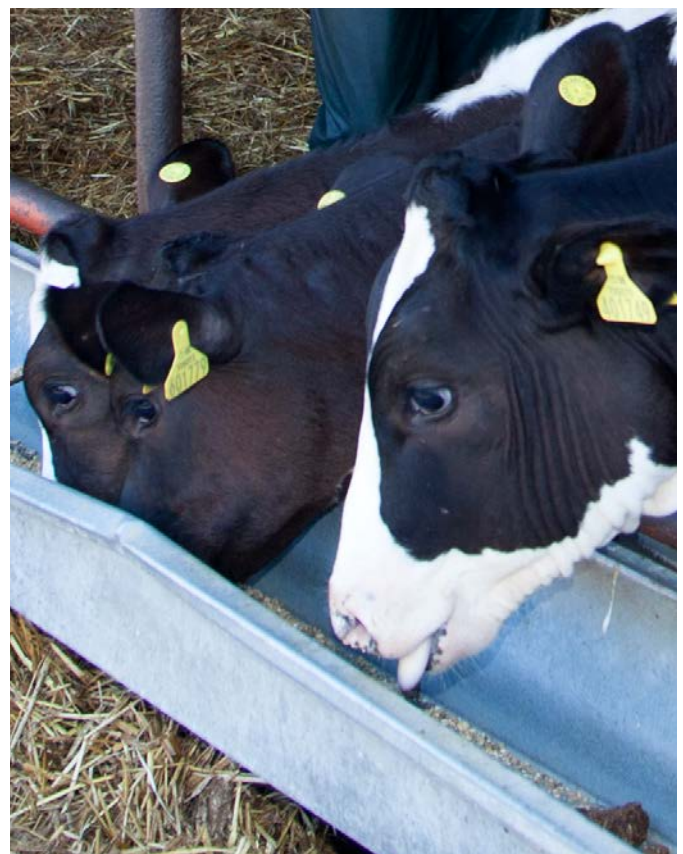
At present however, you will not face Single Farm Payment penalties for overdue TB tests due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We still need to aim to

complete TB testing on time, and if possible contact APHA to discuss the situation before a test becomes overdue.

In breakdown herds, short interval tests (SITs) will continue to be scheduled from 60 days after the last reactor is removed. The window for completion of SITs is 30 days. Until further notice, if it is not possible to test within the pre-set window due to valid reasons associated with COVID-19, an additional 30 days will be given in which you should aim to complete the test (i.e. until 120 days after removal of the last reactor).

Interferon-gamma blood testing depends on the availability of APHA field sampling and laboratory staff to undertake the required number of blood tests during the COVID-19 outbreak, and the ability to comply with social distancing rules on the affected farm. APHA will inform you if the interferon-gamma blood test of your herd needs to be postponed.

Obviously, everything above is being kept under review so please call us on 01978 311444 with any questions you may have.





Covid-19 Milk Markets

Following the crash in the hospitality sector's need for milk, some processors are implementing measures to deal with the fallout from the coronavirus outbreak including the requirement for their farms to cut the amount of milk they supply. Some milk buyers have advised that this can be achieved by:

1. ***Drying off cows earlier***
2. ***Reducing feed rates and using lower quality silage***
3. ***Feeding whole milk to calves***
4. ***Selling cull cows***

These suggestions present their own challenges;

1. If drying off earlier, feeding will have to be adjusted to make sure that dry cows do not become overfat, leading to increased disease risk to fresh calved cows later on. Early dry off will affect colostrum quality and have knock-on effects on calf health. Colostrum quality can be measured with a refractometer (should be greater than 22% on a brix scale). Colostrum of poor quality should not be fed, and stores of frozen good quality colostrum or Immucol Platinum freeze dried colostrum used instead.
2. Reducing feed rates/using poor quality silage has implications for LDA risk, poor fertility, milk quality and nutrition related disease, particularly in early lactation. Dietary protein drives milk yield, so, to reduce yield, reducing the protein in the diet within reason will do that, but ME (energy) levels need to be maintained to preserve cow body condition and fertility etc.

Protein is the most expensive part of purchased feed, so buying a lower % protein feed also helps to reduce cost.

3. Feeding (unpasteurised) whole milk to calves results in huge disease risk with Johnes and TB being the biggest. When feeding whole milk, farmers should consider keeping a nucleus herd of Johnes risk animals to make sure that their milk is not fed to calves. For those doing monthly milk recording and quarterly Johnes testing this should be relatively straight forward, however for those who so far have relied on 30 cow screens for Johnes monitoring, the most sensible option (though far from ideal) is using heifers/younger cows which are otherwise disease free (i.e. free from lameness, mastitis, scour etc) and low cell counts to feed calves. Pasteurization of whole milk would be ideal to reduce the disease risk, but it won't completely eliminate the Johnes disease risk, and it requires more capital investment. There is a big temptation to start feeding waste (antibiotic) milk to calves. It will be of poorer quality and there is the obvious risk of antibiotic resistance ("If you wouldn't put it on your cornflakes, you shouldn't be feeding it to calves!"). For Tesco producers, feeding waste milk MUST NOT be done

4. Reducing cull cow price due to increased number of cull cows and uncertainty in the beef market. But still, older, high cell count, barren and lame cows should all be considered. Given the temptation to feed calves whole milk, Johnes positive cows should be top of the list to go.

