



## Dairy Day – Telford

This year we are going to be attending the UK Dairy Day held at the International Centre in Telford on the 13th of September. We look forward to seeing a few familiar faces there!

## Gwaredu Scab

Gwaredu Scab is a new scheme launched by the Welsh government this summer. Its aim is to eradicate scab in Welsh sheep. The scheme will allow Welsh sheep farmers to have access to FREE diagnostics and treatment if mites are found. If you suspect your flock has sheep scab, call the Gwaredu Scab team on 01554 748576. From there we will be contacted to arrange a visit to take some skin scrape samples. If mites are found, then sheep dipping of the whole flock will be arranged free of charge. For further information please contact the practice and speak to one of the team on 01978 311444



## Johne's disease in Dairy Cattle meeting

Join us on the 27th of September 7.30 PM at the Wynnstay Arms in Ruabon to discuss Johne's control plans and how the Disease Tracker can be of use for your Dairy herd. We would appreciate if you are intending on attending then to please let us know at least a week in advance.

## TB Post movement changes in England

Post movement changes in England have now been in force for a month, any cattle moved to herds located in annual surveillance testing parts of the Edge Area, from higher TB incidence areas of England and from Wales, will require compulsory PoMT between 60 and 120 days after their arrival. Compulsory PoMT must be arranged and paid for by the keeper. The skin test must be completed between 60 and 120 days after arrival in an annual testing part of the Edge Area. Cattle requiring a PoMT cannot be moved off the holding until the test has been completed with negative results.



## Grass staggers risk

Grass staggers or hypomagnesemia is the clinical condition seen when cattle have an insufficient quantity of magnesium in their blood. Whilst the body contains relatively large quantities of magnesium, animals need a constant dietary supply of magnesium to maintain blood levels as body stores tend to be in an unavailable form.

Typically, in the early stages of the condition the cows will become agitated and twitchy, at a herd level you may notice cows kicking off units more often in the parlour. Individual

cows will show a mild reduction in milk yield which will progress to signs of stiffness and muscle tremors. Untreated the condition will progress quite rapidly to the cow going down and being unable to stand, ultimately the levels of magnesium drop low within the fluid which surrounds the brain which results in fitting, coma and death.

Staggers is traditionally seen in the spring and autumn months, when we get a rapid growth of grass. Due to recent weather and what is forecasted for the rest of the month we foresee a high risk of staggers cases.

In terms of prevention there are several options which can be used; with the preferred choice dependent on the particular farming systems. If concentrates are being fed in the parlour or cows are being buffer fed then adding calcined magnesite (magnesium oxide) typically at a rate of 25-30g per cow per day can be used, thorough mixing should take place and all cows should





have access at the same time to ensure submissive cows get adequate access. Magnesium chloride crystals can be added to water troughs, however excessive levels can lead to the water becoming bitter and cows will reduce their water intakes which we should try to avoid. For this to be effective it's important that all available water sources are treated, so if there is access to streams etc this option is not recommended. If magnesium chloride is added to water troughs then levels around 40g/cow/day are typically recommended. Water troughs should have a volume of at least 20L/cow for this option to be used successfully. Cows can be bolused with magnesium bullets to give a slow release of magnesium, however they vary in terms of daily amounts of magnesium released and how long they last for. Often multiple boluses need to be given as they typically do not release a large quantity of magnesium and hypomagnesemia can still occur in these animals if single boluses are given.

Treatment of individual cases consists of supplementing the magnesium levels. Magnesium must not be administered intravenously as a rapid infusion can cause heart attacks. It is crucial to ensure that this is done in a calm and stress-free manner as putting the cow under more stress can lead to an increased risk of heart failure due to rapid depletion of magnesium by heart muscle. If you have a suspected case, then please give us a call on **01978 311444** and speak to one of our vets.



## Daleside Team Tough mudder

On the 10th of September a few of the Daleside team will be taking part in the Tough mudder at Cholmondeley Castle. The course is 15km long with 30 gruelling obstacles! We will be raising money for the DPJ foundation, any donations would be greatly appreciated. Visit our justgiving page for more information! [www.justgiving.com/page/daleside-vets-1689677678540](http://www.justgiving.com/page/daleside-vets-1689677678540)

## Medicine Training course

A requirement of Red tractor Farm assurance is that one member of the farm team has undergone a Medicine Training course. This consists of a few hours training on injection techniques, correct storage and a brief overview of medicine usage. We have had a few clients expressing an interest and will be arranging a training day in the next couple of months. Contact the office if this applies to you or to get more information on the training course.

## Farming connect advisory service

The Farming Connect Advisory Service grants are now open. The service consists of advice tailored to your farm and can be used to fund a range of health and welfare investigations. One-to-one advice is 70% funded. In order to access the grant money you'll be required to be farming connect registered which can be done for free online or contact via phone on **03456 000 813**.

