



Antibiotic Meeting

A reminder that our meeting on responsible use of antibiotics is on Tuesday 12th February 7.30pm at Holt Lodge.

Attendance at this meeting will help dairy, beef and sheep producers to comply with the Red Tractor recommendation that “at least one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training and holds a certificate of competence.” We look forward to seeing you there for what is sure to be a very informative evening.

Spring TB Testing

We have a locum vet, Andrei Bradulescu, joining the farm team from February until the end of April to help with TB testing workload.

We are sure you will all make him feel welcome. If you need any additional help handling cattle on a TB test or for any other reason, we also have Huw Roberts available to help, just contact the practice for more details.



Daleside

Veterinary Group

FEBRUARY 2019

Sheep Meeting +Flock Discussion Group

Calling all sheep farmers!
We are excited to announce that we will be holding a meeting focusing on all things lambing on the 18th of February at The Tyn Y Capel, Minera at 7.30pm.

We aim to cover common lambing problems and making the most of this years lambing season, as well as discussing setting up a flock discussion group for like-minded producers wanting the best out of their flock. We would love your input into the setup of this group, so bring along your best ideas as to what you would want out of a flock discussion group. We also appreciate that some of you may already be in the middle of lambing and may be unable to attend but if you are still interested in being part of the group then please contact the practice for more information.



Diseases of the Newborn Lamb

Hopefully disease in this year's lamb crop will be low but occasionally we can see problems and it is important to be aware of the best ways to minimise risk and to treat affected lambs.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia in the newborn lamb occurs when the heat loss is greater than the heat production resulting in a body temperature that is lower than normal.

- 39-40°C - normal body temperature
- 37-39°C - indicates mild hypothermia
- Less than 37°C - indicates severe hypothermia

Newborn lambs that are less than 5 hrs old usually have a fat reserve which lambs can use for heat production. These lambs should therefore, respond to drying, warming and then feeding by stomach tube if necessary. Newborn lambs older than 5 hrs old have no fat

stores left. If these lambs are warmed without being given energy, they may develop fits and die.

Watery Mouth

Watery mouth is a condition that affects very young lambs, normally up to 3 days of age. It is caused when lambs swallow a quantity of E.coli bacteria from a dirty environment before they've sucked colostrum. The bacteria pass into the gut and multiply and die. As the bacteria die, they release a toxin which is absorbed into the bloodstream resulting in toxic shock.

Clinical signs:

- Lambs quickly become dull and weak. They don't get up and they become unwilling to suck
 - Lambs have cold, wet lips and muzzles from drooling saliva
 - The tail is often dry with no faeces
 - Without treatment, the lamb usually dies within a day but some live long enough to develop scouring and even joint ill.

Treatment:

- Daily antibiotic injection
- Oral antibiotic therapy
- A small dose of anti-inflammatory such as Metacam/Meloxidyl

Prevention:

- Ensure lambs receive adequate colostrum - stomach tube at risk lambs such as weak lambs or triplets
 - Ensure the lambs have a clean environment
 - Oral antibiotics at birth. This should only be done if other methods fail
- Neonatal Scours
Outbreaks of diarrhoea in newborn lambs can be investigated to determine



the cause. This can be done by submitting up to 10 samples which can be sent off to the lab for analysis. By diagnosing the causal agent, appropriate treatment and control measurements can be put in place. Some of the causes of neonatal scour are the following:

- Lamb dysentery – this is caused by a Clostridia species. To protect against this, vaccinate all ewes pre-lambing with a clostridial vaccine.
- E.coli – oral rehydration therapy, injectable antibiotics and adequate colostrum intake for future born lambs.
- Rotavirus – if found to be a problem, then lambs can be given cow colostrum from cows vaccinated against rotavirus. Otherwise, treatment is oral rehydration therapy.

Treatment for scour in lambs must include isolation, warmth and plenty of fluids and electrolytes. It is also important to keep the environment clean. Pens must be thoroughly disinfected between batches of lambs.

Navel Ill

This occurs when infection can enter the body through the fresh navel at lambing time. Bacteria tracks up the navel where it can either cause a localised infection of the navel area where it forms an abscess, or, in particularly severe cases, infection can extend into the abdomen and into the bloodstream.

Contributing factors:

- Lambs born into a dirty environment
 - ensure thorough disinfection of pens
- Navels not being disinfected close enough to birth – ensure all navels are dipped in 10% iodine as close to birth as possible
- Insufficient colostrum intake at birth
 - feed any lambs not keen to suck and pay special attention to triplets.

Clinical signs:

- Swollen navel
- High temperature
- If tracked into the bloodstream lambs can become very sick and stop sucking. They lie for extended periods and stand with hunched backs.

Treatment:

- A short course of antibiotics can clear up simple infections but more severe cases will need extended courses
- Anti-inflammatories

Joint Ill

Joint ill occurs when bacteria enter the newborn via the mouth, through the navel or through other routes. These bacteria travel through the bloodstream to the joints.

Clinical signs:

- Hot, swollen joints
 - Very painful joints
 - Reluctance to stand and suck
- Contributing factors and treatment is as with navel ill and should include antibiotics and anti-inflammatories.



Beating BVD

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is a viral disease in cattle that causes immunosuppression and reproductive failure.

The disease can reduce fertility, increase incidences of abortion and cause pneumonia in affected stock, creating drastic, long-lasting personal and financial effects on all affected farms. The figures are significant, with an approximate cost of £4,500 per year for the average beef herd, and £15,000 for dairy herds.

Funding is now available for cattle keepers in England to test for BVD via the BVD Stamp It Out scheme, including herds already registered with BVDFree. The funding covers 2 vet visits on-farm, plus £61.30 for

BVD testing. To qualify for the funding, farmers must attend an initial meeting discussing how the project is to run, which will be held this spring, so keep an eye out for a date.

As for the Welsh Gwaredu BVD scheme, 7,000 of the 11,000 cattle herds in Wales have now been screened so great progress has been made in finding and eradicating this disease in the Welsh herd. John Griffiths, manager of the Agriculture Research Centre at Coleg Sir G,r's Gelli Aur campus, said: "Farmers are now much more aware of the implications of the disease, and have discovered just how quick and easy it is to get screened. Working together with farmers and vets we can beat BVD."



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