



Practice Meeting Success

We've recently had great attendance at our Responsible Use of Medicines and Flock Health meetings. It was lovely to see so many of you there! We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting, please see details below.

Digital Dermatitis Control: A Successful Story

We are holding a meeting on Wednesday 3rd April 2019 at 10:30am at the White Horse in Overton on digital dermatitis.

Sara Pederson, an RCVS Specialist in Cattle Health and Production Veterinary Consultant will be coming to talk about successful digital dermatitis control. The meeting will be followed by some lunch and then a farm walk, kindly hosted by Mr Mike Done of Asney Park Farm who will be sharing his success story with us. We look forward to seeing you there. If you could register your attendance with one of the team by calling the practice, we will get your name on the list.



Daleside
Veterinary Group

MARCH 2019



Daleside Worm Watch

Designed to save you buying wormers when they are not needed and to help you maintain the health of your stock during the grazing season, the Daleside Worm Watch is a structured plan available for both sheep and cattle farmers, including 7 worm egg counts throughout the grazing season with an optional fluke check around housing.

This NEW service is offered at a 25% discounted rate. Please enquire with a member of the farm team.



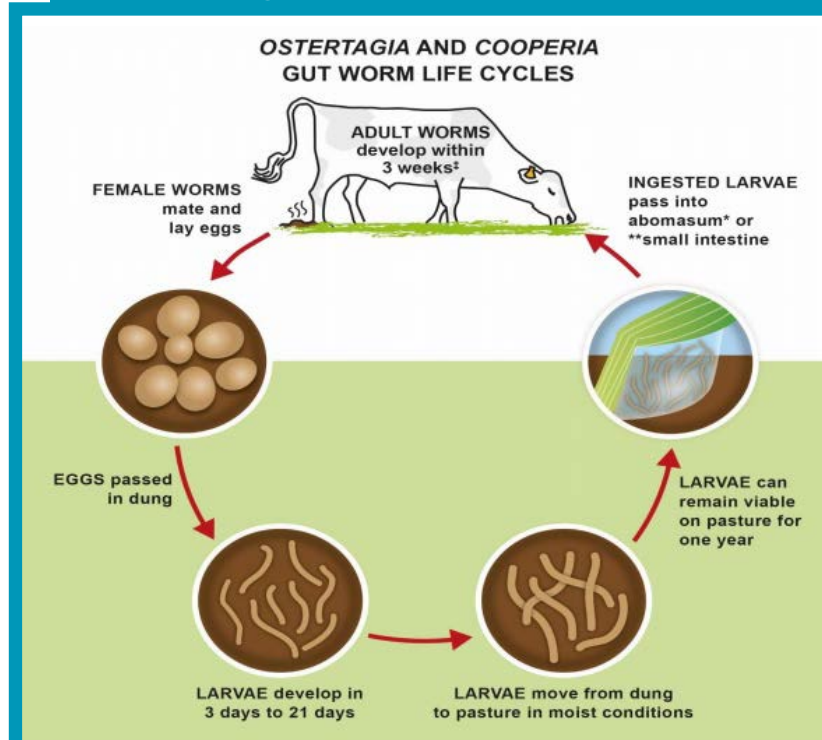
Worm Control in Cattle Youngstock

With turnout almost upon us, it's time to start thinking about worm control. There are two gut worms which commonly affect youngstock in the UK.

These are Ostertagia and Cooperia. Ostertagia develops in the stomach; it reduces the acidity of the stomach and affects protein digestion. It also releases a chemical which depresses the animal's appetite. Cooperia develops in the small intestine and causes damage to the gut lining which negatively affects absorption of nutrients in the intestine. This is why animals infected with these parasites show reduced growth rates and have diarrhoea. Surprisingly, it is reduced appetite and subsequent reduced feed intake which accounts for 60-70% of weight loss in young cattle with a parasite burden.

Gut Worm Life Cycle

In order to understand how best to control parasites, it is important to understand their life cycle. Below is a good diagram of the life cycle of typical cattle gut worms. It is worth noting that conditions need to be warm and moist for worm larvae to survive on pasture. When conditions are right, they can survive for many months and in some cases even over a year. Warm, dry spells will reduce the chances of the larvae surviving.



Whilst in the majority of cases, larvae will be ingested and develop into an adult female and start laying eggs 3 weeks later, Ostertagia have adapted to be able to survive in colder weather by halting their development inside the animal they infect. So, whilst the most common type of disease seen is type 1 Ostertagiosis which is typically seen in late summer/early autumn when contamination of pasture has built up, Ostertagia can also present itself as type 2 disease; typically seen in late winter when the larvae which have halted their development suddenly become active again.



Lungworm

In recent years, we have seen quite a few cases of lungworm here at the practice. Lungworm causes coughing, reduced exercise tolerance, and heavy, fast breathing. Lungworm should always be considered in any coughing cow which has had access to pasture. It can cause sudden death but can also show mild signs of weight loss and reduced milk yield. Lost milk yield in severely affected herds can reach £1.50 per head per day and the recovery time after treatment can be 10-20 days.

Immunity to Worms

Cattle do develop immunity to worms, however, it takes a relatively long time; between 1 and 2 full grazing seasons depending on the type of worm. It is because of development of immunity that adult cattle rarely need worming. Although immunity is never complete, adult cattle generally don't show clinical disease; having only small worm burdens and only shedding small numbers of eggs.

Effects of Temperature on Gut Worm

Some larvae can survive on pasture over winter if conditions allow. Surprisingly, survival of larvae is higher during a cold winter, especially if there has been snow. The reason being, that worm larvae halt their development and go into a state similar to hibernation, the colder it is. As such, they do not need energy reserves and can survive for longer. Snow also prevents dehydration of larvae. This means that when cattle are first turned out in spring, there is a risk of them coming across residual larvae left over from late summer/autumn. For adult cattle which have developed immunity this isn't a problem, however for weaned calves turned out for the first time with no immunity, a lot of these ingested larvae will develop into adults and start producing eggs, therefore, contaminating pasture for that grazing season. At the beginning of the season when temperatures are low, development of these larvae is slow, however, as the season moves on and temperatures become higher, development is much quicker and pasture becomes more contaminated. As such, disease is normally seen from July onwards.

Control of Worms

Growth rates are a really important measure of performance and can aid decisions in parasite control. Young cattle should be growing at a rate of at least 0.7Kg/day but preferably 0.8Kg/

Worm Control in Cattle Youngstock....

day. Pasture management is a key area of control. Much like bacteria develop resistance to antibiotics, worms can develop resistance to wormers. As such, it is important that wormers are only used when needed. Wherever possible, youngstock should be put onto pasture which has been mowed off last grazing season and not subsequently had cattle grazing it. In this case, long acting wormers should not need to be used.

Where clean pasture is not available, strategic worming from turnout may be required. There is also a vaccine available for lungworm, however, there are some fairly strict conditions as to when and how it should be used; in particular with regards to using wormers as well.

It is therefore important to talk to a vet about pasture management and worm risk before deciding whether wormers or vaccine should be the chosen method of control on farm. It is important to continually monitor worm burdens throughout the grazing season to determine if wormers are required. Faecal egg counts provide a good monitoring tool and should be used monthly throughout the grazing season.



FARM
t. 01978 311 444

WREXHAM
t. 01978 311 881

PENYFFORDD
t. 01244 543 211

SHOTTON
t. 01244 830



Control of Worms in Sheep

Worm lifecycles in sheep are very similar to those in cattle. There are some specific differences such as the peri-parturient rise seen in ewes, however, the principles of monitoring and control are the same.

Wormers should only be used when necessary and pasture management is a key area to aid control. After the recent success of the meeting hosted by the practice for our sheep producers, we look forward to our next meeting in the summer which will cover specific sheep parasite control.

Daleside Vets,
Main Road, Rhosrobin,
Wrexham, LL11 4RL
t. 01978 311 444

www.dalesidevets.co.uk/farm