Daleside
Veterinary Group

FARM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2019

Farming Connect Funding

A reminder that there is still time to apply for funding from farming connect for laboratory testing including faecal egg counting and fertility testing among others.

The deadline for the grants is the 31st of July 2019 so apply early to avoid disappointment. Please speak to a member of the team today about how we can help you best utilize these funds.

There is a separate fund of up to £250 available for veterinary advice on the effective and responsible use of medicines on farm. An antibiotic review undertaken by a vet is now a compulsory part of herd and flock health plans so making good use of the funding available would be a good step towards building or maintaining your health plan.

BVD Meeting Success

Last month we hosted our first BVD Stamp It Out meeting for clients based in England. We had a good turnout and great discussion on eradication strategies. If you missed the meeting, are based in England and would like to get involved then please get in touch with the practice.

FARM 2019 SHOWS

Come and find us

16TH MAY
Cows On Tour Wrexham

18TH - 19TH JUNE
Cheshire Show

31ST JULY
Nantwich Show

3RD AUGUST
Oswestry Show

15TH AUGUST
Flint and Denbigh Show

THE ROYAL CHESHIRE COUNTY SHOW

18th 19th JUNE

We will be attending The Royal Cheshire County Show for the first time this month!

As usual come along to the stand for a drink and a chat. We hope to see you there.

Fly Control

Fly season is officially here!
Now is a great time to talk about fly control...

Did you know flies can cause all of these issues?

- Reduced milk yields of up to 20%
- Increased incidence of Summer mastitis
- Reduced calf weight gain
- Downgraded wool quality
- Reduced fertility

In the UK there are two main categories of flies that we are concerned about: The biting flies which suck blood from stock and the non-biting flies that feed on secretions from livestock's nose, eyes, udders and skin. One of the most common flies is the face fly, this looks like the normal house fly and feeds on secretions of animals and is responsible for transmitting some nasty bacteria that can cause diseases such as New forest. The face fly has several breeding cycles throughout the year and lay eggs in slurry, around 7-20 days later the larvae hatch and develop into adult flies.

Another fly that cattle are commonly affected by is the head fly. This fly looks like the face fly and is responsible for transmitting Summer mastitis. When the flies feed in swarms they can cause intense irritation and stress for the animal. These flies lay eggs in soil, dung and rotting vegetation with the males hatching first – so early preventative fly treatment can help reduce the breeding numbers in the environment.
With global temperatures on the increase we are at risk of seeing newly emerging diseases that were previously only seen on the continent! A lot of these disease such as Blue tongue, Rift Valley Fever and Schmallenberg are transmitted by fly species so good fly control is an effective way to ensure we keep these diseases at bay.
If you are interested in developing a good fly control protocol or want more information about the products we have available to control fly populations please contact the practice for more information.

Joining XL Vets

We are pleased to announce that Daleside Vets are now working with the XL Vets Group. XL Vets is a community of independently-owned, progressive veterinary practices that work together to achieve the highest standards of veterinary care.

XLVet member practices are dedicated to providing a high quality, cost-effective service to their clients, to support long-term growth and future prosperity within the UK livestock industry. This gives farm clients local access to many of the unique national initiatives the group develops; from health management, consultancy advice and disease prevention, through to bespoke analytical services to improve farm productivity and financial returns.
We are committed to continue thriving and growing as an independent practice and becoming an XL Vets Member Practice puts us in the strongest position to continue to do so.

Ketosis

We have been seeing quite a few cases of ketosis in dairy cows recently in the practice with glucose and glycol flying off the shelves so we have put together some information on how to spot the signs early, management and prevention of ketotic cows.

Ketosis is an important clinical and subclinical disease, as there are several metabolic disorders and diseases that commonly occur in the calving and the early lactation period that are linked to ketosis (including milk fever, retained foetal membranes and displaced abomasum).

There is a gradual loss of body condition over several days or even weeks. There is also a moderate to marked decline in milk yield (up to 5 litres per day) over five to six days before the onset of obvious clinical signs. It is most commonly seen in high-yielding dairy cows in early lactation. Secondary ketosis due to lack of appetite as a result of another disease can be seen at any stage of lactation. Beef cows may also suffer from ketosis during pregnancy, although this is less commonly seen.

It is important to recognise that many cases of ketosis are subclinical, with the cow's performance and health compromised, but without visible clinical signs. The clinical signs of ketosis include a refusal to eat grain and concentrate feeds and a sudden drop in milk output. There is a sweet smell of acetone in the breath and milk. Some cows may exhibit nervous signs, which include excessive salivation, abnormal chewing movements, licking of walls, gates or metal bars, incoordination with apparent blindness and a degree of aggression. The nervous signs often only last for a few hours. Cows with ketosis are at greater risk of developing retained foetal membranes, displacement of the abomasum and are more likely to have prolonged calving to conception intervals and lower fertility. Due to an impaired immune system they are also more susceptible to certain types of mastitis.

Treatment relies on prompt diagnosis and mainly consists of energy supplementation either through glucose administration in the vein and/or

propylene glycol orally as well as other supportive therapies. If you are concerned about a cow in your herd then please do not hesitate to contact the practice.

One of the guiding principles of prevention is to feed high levels of roughage in the diet to promote good rumen digestion. For dairy cattle fed at least 60% fresh or conserved roughage, this should be of high quality during early lactation to meet the energy and protein requirements.

Transition cow management (the late dry period up to the first 1-2 weeks of lactation) is critical in prevention of a range of metabolic diseases including ketosis, and as such should be highlighted in the herd health plan.
Prevention of ketosis is important, as cows with clinical and sub-clinical disease have a reduced milk yield and are predisposed to several other conditions due to immunosuppression. The key to prevention of ketosis is good transition cow management.

The following points should be considered:

- **Cows should not be too fat at calving, as this depresses their feed intakes. A condition score of 2.5-3.0 on a 1-5 scale is optimal, and anything higher is considered too fat and at greater risk of ketosis**

- **Dietary changes during early lactation should be made gradually**

- **Efforts should be made to ease the transition from gestation to lactation by offering highly palatable forage at calving and providing suitable accommodation and assistance where necessary**

- **Forage quality should be checked several times every year. In cobalt deficient areas, measures should be taken to ensure adequate cobalt intake (to help support the rumen)**

- **Metabolic profiles using blood samples taken from groups of dry cows and cows in early lactation can help us monitor the herd health and detect subclinical disease. Dietary changes can then be made if necessary to reduce disease.**

Daleside
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