



**Daleside**  
Veterinary Group

# FARM NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020



## Embryo Transfer For Repeat Breeders

An alternative to culling cows that fail to get pregnant after multiple services is

the use of embryo transfer.

Although we have offered the service for several years now, we realise that still many clients are unaware of this treatment option. We can implant a cheap beef cross embryo in repeat breeders i.e. cows being served regularly every 3 weeks without holding. Conception rates are approximately 50% on average so making embryo transfer very cost effective. This makes it very attractive on farms where cow numbers have been cut due to TB, or where there is a shortage of heifer replacements, to keep culling rates low.

*To discuss how embryo transfer could work on your farm, contact Guy on 01978 311444.*

## Leptavoid-H Deal Ends This Month

Just a reminder that the current seasonal offer on Leptavoid-H vaccine runs until the end of March.

If you vaccinate your herd against Leptospirosis or are thinking of doing so we urge you to get your order in before the end of this month to take advantage of this offer.

*(Please note that, at present, Leptavoid-H is only available in 25 dose packs). Phone the office on 01978 311444 to place your order*

## Beef Rearing and Finishing Meeting

We are holding a meeting on 26th March at 7.30pm in the Shippon Restaurant, The Plassey, Eyton, Wrexham.

Iwan Vaughan from Wynnstay Farmers will be there to talk on feeding cattle for rearing and finishing under different management systems. A speaker from Buitelaar will discuss what they look for in terms of weights and grades of finished cattle, as rose veal, bull beef and traditional beef animals.

This meeting will be of great interest not only to beef farmers but also to dairy farmers who are now having to rear beef animals thanks to TB restrictions.

*If you would like to attend, please contact Lauren on 01978 311444 by 20th March.*

## Staff News

At the end of this month we'll be saying "Adio!" (Romanian for goodbye) to Andrei.

Since he has been with us, Andrei has become very popular with clients and staff alike and we are all sad to see him go. We wish him and his partner all the best in their new adventure in Norway.

In a couple of months we will see the return of a familiar face to the vet team. We are pleased to announce that David Hesketh will be joining us again over the summer. Well known to most of you already, David has spent his time working as a locum, broadening his farm animal skills, and we look forward to him re-joining the practice.



# Planning for Turnout

**Last month we focused on Lungworm in cattle, and this month we look at planning gut worm control, ready for the sun to come out and the ground to dry up!**

The aim of a worm control plan is to allow animals the opportunity to develop immunity to worms without a large enough worm burden to cause disease or a reduction in growth rates, while minimising the development of worm resistance to the wormers we use.

**Grazing Clean Pasture** – Grazing youngstock and lambs on ground that has not been grazed by other stock for a couple of years is the ideal scenario, but even grazing them on ground that hasn't been grazed by other stock since last year is lower risk than ground that has already been grazed by older stock that season. It's likely to have a much lower burden of worms, and so it will take much longer over the grazing season for the worm numbers to build up.

**Rotating Grazing** – Moving stock to new clean grazing regularly through the summer reduces the build up of worm burden on the pasture compared to set stocked grazing on the same pasture all summer. This again slows the build up of worms numbers in the animals gut.

**Mixed Leys** – A mixed grass ley including plants such as chicory can help reduce the impact of worm on cattle and sheep.

**Fit Healthy Stock** – Cattle and sheep that are healthy and in good condition will have a more robust immune system, and so can deal with higher worm burdens without impacting their performance compared to animals that are dealing with other diseases and poor nutrition.

**Faecal Worm Egg Counts** – Collecting 10 faeces samples from each group every 3-4 weeks for us to carry out a worm egg count on a pooled group sample is an easy and cost-effective way to know when treating for worms is necessary. This avoids the unnecessary use of wormers, helping to slow down the development

of wormer resistance in the worm population on your farm, as well as saving the time and cost of unnecessary treatments. Faecal worm egg counts can also be used after worming to check how well the wormer has worked.

**Wormer treatment** – When treating for worms, ensure you know the weight of the stock you're treating by weighing them, and treat for the heaviest in the group. Ensure the dosing equipment is clean, calibrated and working effectively. Speak to one of the farm team for advice on which is the most appropriate wormer for you to use on your farm. After treatment, turn stock back onto a dirty pasture for a few days to allow them to pick up some 'normal' worms from the pasture. This will help to dilute any resistant worms left in the animals gut after treatment. Leaving some animals in a group untreated, can also help to dilute any resistant worms left in the treated animals as they pass onto the pasture. The best animals in a group that are in the best condition are generally the ones that you can afford not to treat.

**Quarantine Purchased Stock** – Treat purchased stock with a quarantine wormer dose and keep them housed or on hard standing for 24-48 hours before turning them out to graze, to ensure they don't bring in any resistant worms onto your farm. Speak to the farm team for advice on which wormers to use as a quarantine dose.

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## UbroStar Red to Replace Ubro Red

The makers of UbroRed dry cow tubes have announced that this month they will be changing it to UbroStar Red.

This new product, they hope, will avoid the raw ingredient supply problems that have occurred with UbroRed in recent times.

The new product is broadly similar to the old one – just a few minor changes to the penicillin component – and so will work against the same bacteria as before, it even comes in the same pack sizes. However, please note that the milk withdrawal period has been extended from 28 days (+84 hours) to 35 days (+36 hours).

