



**Daleside**  
Veterinary Group

# FARM NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

## Lameness meeting

**Date: 23rd November**

**Venue: Wynnstay Hotel, Ruabon**

**Time: 7:30pm**

We shall be hosting a cattle lameness meeting on Tuesday 23rd November at 7.30pm at the Wynnstay Hotel, Ruabon.

You will be glad to hear that this will be held in person, and is kindly sponsored by CEVA Animal Health. We will be touching on subjects such as management of cases and perhaps most importantly, preventative measures.

Nichol will also be discussing the AHDB Healthy Feet Programme, where we work with you to develop a programme tailored to your farms problems and set a realistic goal. In addition to this, Charlotte our Vet Tech can offer ROMS (Register of Mobility Scorers) accredited mobility scoring service. Some milk contracts have a requirement for an independent scorer to mobility score your herd and we can see this being put into effect more and more in the near future. If you would be interested in getting your herd mobility scored, please get in touch.

## Calf pneumonia

As we experience a change of weather coming into October, we will be entering a high-risk period for pneumonia. Suffering from pneumonia as a calf has been shown to have a significant impact on later life productivity. Dairy calves with a history of pneumonia have a 525kg decrease in first lactation milk production, and for beef calves it has been proven to decrease growth performance by up to 6kg per month, leading to a 33-59 day longer fattening period.

## Farming Connect Clinics and Capital grants

Farming connect has recently opened more grants available for eligible farmers in Wales. Many of you will have already taken advantage of the Farming connect clinics, which has a £250 allowance for diagnostic investigation work on your farm.

This funding can be used to investigate pneumonia, barren ewes, bull testing and many more diseases. A new round of funding is now available, this can be used on farms who have used the funding previously, to investigate a different disease/problem. In addition to this Farming Connect Capital Grants are now available, this can be used towards things such as handling systems, boreholes, computer systems and many more. A full list can be found online by searching for Farm Business Grant.

We are also running another Mastering Medicine courses on Wednesday 27th October. Farming connect grants are available to contribute 80% of the course fee. To express an interest in attending a course, please get in touch with us on 01978 311444.

There are a variety of diagnostics we can use to find the causative pathogen, nasal swabs for any active infection or checking the bloods for any previous infection. Knowing this can help choose an appropriate vaccine. Age at infection and time of year are also very influential factors when it comes to choosing an appropriate vaccination protocol. We can also help you improve housing and management to reduce the risk of pneumonia.

Get your stock protected before this years winter by speaking to one of our vets.



## IBR – Adult dairy

After last year's successful promotion, kindly sponsored by MSD animal health we will once again be offering free bulk milk testing this October.

The testing will consist of testing for IBR and leptospirosis for herds who don't currently vaccinate against the diseases. This will enable us to determine the health status of your herd, helping us devise protocols specifically for your farm. All eligible farms will be receiving sample pots we would appreciate it if these could be either returned to the practice or be handed to a vet when on a visit.

When taking a bulk milk sample, it is vital that you do not use the sample pot to collect milk directly from the tank. The sample pot contains a preservative and would make the milk in the tank worthless if it were to be contaminated. Collect the milk in a jug or bottle and then transfer to the sample pot.

Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) is a viral disease causing upper respiratory tract infections. As a disease, it can spread readily between cattle, and so biosecurity measures and vaccination are implemented to minimise the risk from IBR. Most infected cattle will develop a latent IBR infection, and periods of stress can induce virus shedding from these animals.

The virus can readily spread to naive cattle through direct contact, knowing your IBR herd status will enable us to work with you to implement an IBR control programme, either to reduce to risk of introducing a costly disease to your naive herd or to reduce.

Knowing your IBR herd status will enable us to work with you to implement an IBR control programme, either to reduce to risk of introducing a costly disease to your naïve herd or to reduce clinical cases and reduce the risk of spreading the disease to purchased and in-contact animals.

## Health Plans

There are some additional requirements being introduced to the Red Tractor Farm Assurance dairy herd health plan this November:

- A breeding plan to eliminate the need for routine euthanasia of newborn calves, and an annual collation of calf births and deaths
- A protocol to provide analgesia (pain relief) for procedures such as debudding and castration
- Mobility scoring, as well as body condition scoring, hock lesion and cleanliness scoring is recommended

An active and responsive health plan can improve efficiency and profitability by implementing proactive disease prevention, improving herd and flock health and performance. In order to get the most out of your health plan annual review it is important to appreciate the content and aims.

The health plan outlines the disease status of the farm along with the key challenges and areas of risk, provide a framework for putting disease prevention strategies such as vaccination in place. It allows us to plan how existing issues are to be tackled, measure and monitor animal health and productivity, as well as constantly looking at ways to improve biosecurity and management procedures. Building on these foundations will not only lead to improved animal health productivity, but increased profitability.

For us to get a full understanding of your farm and to get the most from the health plan visit, we will ask you to fill in some details and return them to us before the visit. Ensuring that the figures are as accurate as possible will ensure that you get the most out of the review.

Therefore, we ask that you please allow enough time to prepare for the health plan visit, to allow us to complete it before your farm assurance inspection.

