

Weaning Lambs, worming and worm resistance

Many of you will be weaning lambs at the moment. It is a time to be considering whether they need to be wormed or not. From about 12 weeks of age, lambs can be weaned and moved to less heavily-contaminated grazing, avoiding the high levels of infectivity on pastures they have grazed with their mothers since turnout. Silage / hay aftermaths can be used or pasture that has carried cattle since turnout. Ideally, faeces samples should be tested from 10 lambs in the group to see if there is a significant worm burden. We can carry out these mob tests (cost £18.54) at the surgery, and get a result back to you within 24 hours to let you know whether the lambs need to be treated. If you are going to treat lambs at this stage it is best to leave 10% untreated to avoid seeding the cleaner pasture with only resistant worms. Another option would be to dose the lambs while on the original pasture and leave them for 4-7 days before moving onto clean pasture, again trying to make sure that you do not keep on selecting for and ending up with only resistant worms on your farm

Another approach to reduce the risk of resistance would be to drench all the lambs with **Zolvix** at weaning. There is no known resistance to this wormer and a drench at this time will remove the worm burden from the lambs and reduce the number of resistant worms in the system. It is also a very good idea to worm any **purchased sheep with Zolvix** on arrival to remove any resistant worms before they go on to your pasture. These sheep should be kept on yards for 24-48 hours after treatment. Best practice would be to give a second wormer e.g. moxidectin, to complete the quarantine dose.

We currently have an offer on purchases of Zolvix -buy 2 x1 litres to get a free gun worth £52.79 + VAT. Please contact us for more information on any aspect of worm control and speak to one of the vets.

Enzootic Abortion Vaccine

If you have diagnosed enzootic abortion on your flock in the past, now is the time to be vaccinating your ewes to prevent further losses. The vaccine needs to be given at least 4 weeks before the rams go in, and as it gives long lasting protection usually one injection in the lifetime of a ewe is sufficient. Ewe lambs can be vaccinated from 5 months of age. We now have our Cevac Chlamydia vaccine in stock and the pricing is as follows (for payment at the time of collection):

50 dose packs – for up to 100 doses -10% discount - £1.98/dose

over 100 doses - 15% discount - £1.87/dose

over 200 doses – 20% discount - £1.76/dose

20 dose packs – any quantity -10% discount - £2.43/dose

Calf Pneumonia Vaccines

On many farms housing in the autumn is one of the high risk periods for calf pneumonia, especially if it coincides with weaning, dehorning or castrating. In order to protect calves from pneumonia at this time, they should be fully vaccinated before housing. Depending on the age of the calves and vaccine used, they will need one or two doses at least 2 weeks before housing, and for some vaccines this may mean starting 6 weeks before housing. To encourage you to get on and do this Zoetis (formerly Pfizer) are supplying **free vaccinator packs worth £29.99** to clients ordering at least 20 doses of any Rispoval calf vaccine during the month of September. The number of packs is limited so get your order in quickly.

Of course vaccines are only one tool in the fight against calf pneumonia, so if you had problems last year and want some advice on housing, ventilation, prevention or treatment please give us a call. There are still 80% grants available from Farming Connect which can go towards funding our input on dealing with pneumonia or any other particular problems that you have with your livestock.

Use of Flukicides in Dairy Cattle

The European Commission, working with the European Medicines Agency, has recently reached a decision that will lead to changes in the licensing of many of the flukicides currently used in the UK. Some are no longer licensed for dairy cattle and others have had a change to their withdrawal period. The information on the label may not be up to date, so please check with us before you use a product. We will e-mail a table to all our dairy clients with all the details on it. If you want a paper copy please call and collect one or ring and ask us to post one.

Payment Methods

Just to let you know that we are able to accept debit card payments over the phone (but not credit card payments). You can also pay us by direct bank transfer BACs, which saves on the cost of a cheque. Please contact the office staff for our details if you wish to pay by this method

Shows

Once again we will be in attendance at Monmouth show on Thursday 29th August and Usk show on 14th September. If you are visiting either of these shows please pop along to our stand for a chat and a cup of tea (or something stronger). We would be happy to see as many of you as possible on either of these days.

Drug Orders

Please remember to ring in advance for any large orders of drugs, as we have had to move much of the stock to a cooler storage facility. Remember that the high temperatures will also affect the drugs that you have on farm. Many of them become unstable in temperatures over 25°C. Hormones and vaccines are especially sensitive and most need to be refrigerated.

Phone System

Due to a lightning strike our phone system was out of action last weekend. We took what action we could to try and make sure that clients could contact the duty vet, but we apologise to anyone who could not contact us, when they needed to.

Rob, Jane and the team at Farm First.