



**Red Tractor Health Plans** Any dairy farmer who has to have a Red Tractor health plan should be aware that the plan has changed this year and is slightly more involved. More information is required and there is a third section which requires the vet to look at the farm records, some of the livestock and make recommendations based on what they find. This obviously takes extra time, especially if the farm records are not computerised. So if you have a farm assurance visit coming up in the near future, or even several months away, please remember to give us plenty of time to do the work required, ideally a couple of weeks. It isn't something we can do the night before any more.

**Treatment of Hypothermia in Lambs** Hypothermia in young lambs results from a combination of heat loss and starvation and is a real risk with the weather we have been having. Adequate shelter should be provided outdoors, and indoor pens should be draught-free. Severely affected lambs have an arched back, hollow flanks and a lowered head, with a rectal temperature below 37 °C. If less than 5 hours old these lambs can be dried, warmed to 37°C, fed colostrum, warmed to 39°C and returned to the ewe. However, if they are over 5 hours old they will need an intraperitoneal injection of 20% glucose at a rate of 10ml/kg to help them recover. After this they should be dried, warmed and fed as for the younger lambs. Intraperitoneal injections are a real lifesaver and are relatively straight forward to perform so give it a go.

For further information in this subject, including how to perform intraperitoneal injections, please contact us at the surgery on 01873 840167 or call in for a fact sheet.

**Leptospirosis Vaccination** We are changing our leptospirosis vaccination to Spirovac this spring, as we are able to sell it at a more competitive price than the old vaccine. A 25 dose pack will cost £41.74 for payment at the time. The dose regime is the same as for the other vaccine, 2 ml given subcutaneously and repeated 4-6 weeks later as a primary dose, with annual boosters recommended. A booster dose can be given to cattle previously vaccinated with Leptavoid-H. Remember that the ideal time to vaccinate your cattle is before turnout and heifers will require 2 doses, so need to be done soon.

**Bovilis Huskvac** Following on from the last topic, Bovilis Huskvac is the only vaccine for the prevention of lungworm infection in cattle and now is the time to think about using it. There are several reasons to consider this method of lungworm control in both dairy and beef herds.

1. Coughing cows – an increase in the incidence of lungworm in heifers in their 2nd grazing season and adult cows in the last 10 years may be associated with inadequate opportunities of developing immunity due to over worming in the first grazing season.

2. Reduce unnecessary use of anthelmintics – Bovilis Huskvac can be used in combination with other strategies to reduce anthelmintic use.

3. Organic herds – Bovilis Huskvac is the recommended option for the prevention of lungworm as anthelmintics are restricted in organic herds.

Huskvac can be used in healthy cattle of 8 weeks of age and older. Following vaccination, vaccinated stock should not be mixed with unvaccinated stock or allowed to graze on pastures recently used by unvaccinated stock until 2 weeks after the second dose of Bovilis Huskvac. Calves need to complete a full course 2 weeks before they can be let out to grass.

**Kling On Blue** Kling-on Blue is now, for the first time, available in a Ready to Use formulation which can be mixed directly in the footbath. New Kling-on Blue RTU comes in a paste which when added to the footbath disperses very easily into a suspension using a high volume hose. It is now available in 21.4kg buckets, sufficient for up to 200 cows to walk through once. In Kling-on Blue RTU the copper and zinc are already bound to the colloid former which allows for more effective delivery onto the surface of the cow's hoof horn and skin. As always with Kling-on Blue it will stay on the hoof for up to three days following one pass through the footbath, allowing for a much longer contact time on the hoof than other products.



**Good footbathing practice** Use two footbaths – one containing water, for cattle to walk through first, as this will help remove muck and organic matter. This will ensure maximum surface coverage on the hoof and over the coronary band from the product in the second footbath containing Kling-on Blue RTU. Make sure that there is a minimum depth of 10cm for all cattle to walk through. Follow the Kling-on Blue RTU suggested protocol of using once a week for eight weeks and then moving to once fortnightly footbathing

**News** We are moving premises but not very far. From April we will be moving in to Unit 1, Bryn Garage (formerly the caravan sales area). This move should provide easier parking for our clients and enable us to improve our facilities for treating sheep and calves at the office.

**Car Sticker Competition** The winner of last month's competition is Gordon Vimpany, whose sticker was spotted by Vicki while she was out riding her horse. He wins a hamper kindly sponsored by our wholesaler NVS.

## **And Finally**

### **“Senior” Vets**

Last month the directors, Rob and Jane, showed that they truly are the senior vets. At the end of a visit to the Jones Brothers at Parc Gwyn, Rob went to set off on his next call. Much to his dismay he couldn't find his keys. So the search began, involving the 4 farm staff, in the dairy, down the cubicles and in the straw pens. Debbie was about to go home and get her metal detector. Anyway, with no success, Natalie had to collect Rob from the farm, take him to Crickhowell to get the spares and return to the farm. Upon his return, he patted his fleece pockets (which he had been wearing all along) and found the lost bunch of keys!

The following weekend Jane made a brief trip to Waitrose to fill up with fuel. Later that afternoon she received a voicemail from Vicki asking her why Gwent Police were looking for a green Subaru registered to the practice which had left Waitrose without paying for fuel. Thankfully all was settled without any trips to the police station!

But the other members of staff have been left seriously questioning how these two are allowed to be their bosses!!

Comment from Rob and Jane-“it's called stress guys!”