



**TB News** You may have seen information in the press that the TB testing tenders in Wales have been awarded and in this area **lechyd Da** have won the tender. We were part of the group that put this tender together so this means that you will probably not notice any difference to your TB testing arrangements. You will see the same vets and speak to the same people. If there are to be any slight changes in procedure we will let you know about them in due course.

**TB Paperwork.** Please note that if your herd has had a short interval test we are unable to print off the paperwork, even if you have tested clear. You will need to contact the AHPA to get a copy of it from them. Their telephone number is: 0300 303 8268

**Emailing of Lab Reports** From now on we will be sending copies of your lab reports out by email (if we have your email address), which means that you will receive them more quickly.

**Long Day Lighting for Dairy Cows.** Long day lighting has been shown to increase milk production in dairy cows. It has an effect on melatonin production in the brain, which, in turn has an effect on the mammary cells. With the correct type of light and the right lighting pattern increases in yield of between 5 and 15% have been achieved. **Milk components are not usually altered (though there is sometimes a small reduction in butterfat).** If you would like to know more about this effect, we are holding a meeting at Usk College on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February with two excellent speakers, one of whom will be talking on this subject.

**Colostrum Feeding to Lambs** As a rule of thumb or minimum, lambs should receive 50ml/kg in first 6 hours, preferably within 3 hours, followed by 200ml/kg in first 24 hours. This would mean that an average 4 kg lamb would need 200ml within 3 hours of birth, followed by 800 ml in the first 24 hours.

There is increasing evidence that powdered colostrum does not provide enough nutrients and even less antibody protection, so it is a good idea to harvest milk off milky single-bearing ewes which can be stored in freezer for years.

An alternative is to find a goat farm and buy colostrum, hopefully from clostridia-vaccinated does. The next best source is cows' colostrum. However the colostrum from 4 cows should be diluted to reduce the risk of cow antibody induced anaemia. This is rare but usually fatal when it occurs. Any harvested colostrum should be poured into several suitable sized units and frozen.

**Twin Lamb Disease on Ewes** Twin lamb disease results when a ewe's energy demands in late pregnancy are not met by her diet. The first sign of Twin Lamb Disease is often a ewe which doesn't come to eat. She may be dull or depressed; star-gaze, teeth-grind or head-press; become blind; have facial tremors and become recumbent.

The best way to treat these ewes is to provide them with energy on the form of propylene glycol. They need 50 – 100 ml daily which should be given in 3-4 doses. In addition, a painkiller such as Flunixin or Metacam seems to help these ewes and has been proven to help survival rates. A vitamin B12 injection will help the rumen bacteria produce energy. Glucose is only any use if given intravenously, which is not easy in a sheep. The ewe should be offered rich palatable food, to tempt her to eat and kept hydrated.

If none of the above treatments are working, a final resort would be to induce the ewe to lamb with an injection of corticosteroid injection. As well as removing the lambs, one of the drains on the ewe's energy supply, the corticosteroids directly help the ewe's metabolic state and stimulate her appetite.

**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.

**Scour in Calves** We often see calf scour problems at this time of year when bugs have built up in the housing, If it is possible a good clean out of the sheds (**including disinfection with an APHA approved disinfectant**) will go a long way to solving the problem. If this is not practical or doesn't work, getting some samples examined can help us to advise on the best way to prevent and treat the disease. With the help of MSD, we are able to carry out a number of lab tests for calf scour free of charge over the next few weeks. We also have several colostrometers to give out, to help investigate if poor colostrum quality is part of the reason for the scour. If you are having problems please ring us to discuss the next step, or bring in some samples taken from calves that are on the first or second day of their illness.

**Meetings** There will be a daytime meeting at Rhadyr Farm, Usk College on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February kindly sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim. There will be two sessions, one from the vet and Cow Signals trainer Rob Davies, who has done a meeting for us before. The other speaker is Dr. Huw McConochie from Wynnstay who will cover the subject of how lighting can affect production. There will be one session before lunch and one after, to fit between milkings, so if you would like to come along please let us know.

Farming Connect are holding a meeting on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015, at the Hogs Head, starting at 7 pm on Evaluating the best EID system for your flock.

A Farming Connect Soil workshop is being held in Monmouthshire on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015. On farm samples will be taken and analysed during February and March. If you are interested in participating please contact Catherine Smith on 07974655774 or by email to [catherine.smith@menterabusnes.co.uk](mailto:catherine.smith@menterabusnes.co.uk).

**A Senior trying to set a Password** (This is not a reference to Rob by the way)

Windows: Please enter your new password.

User: cabbage

Windows: Sorry the password must be more than 8 characters.

User: boiled cabbage

Windows: Sorry the password must contain 1 numerical character.

User: 1 boiled cabbage

Windows: Sorry the password can't have blank spaces.

User: 50bloodyboiledcabbages

Windows: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character.

User: 50BLOODYboiledcabbages

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively

User: 50BloodyBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow!

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

User:ReallyPissedOff50BloodyBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon'tGiveMeAccessNow

Windows: Sorry, that password is already in use.