



### Warning -acidosis in dairy cows

In last week's Veterinary Record there was a letter reporting severe illness and death in dairy cows due to acidosis. These cows had been given a proprietary post calving drink and a calcium bolus at calving. However, their water supply had frozen and they were unable to drink clean fresh water for up to 30 hours. It is thought that this combination of salts and lack of water led to dehydration and acidosis. It underlines the importance of access to clean fresh water, even when other fluids are being given. These products have been widely used in fresh calvers and there have been no reports of similar problems when cows have had access to water.

### Protect your flock from resistant worms

There is a need to act now by integrating ZOLVIX® into worming programs to fight wormer resistance and help protect traditional classes of drench. Resistance to gastro-intestinal worms has been recognised for some time, with many farms affected by worm populations that are resistant to traditional drenches – the white (benzimidazoles or 1-BZ), yellow (levamisoles or 2-LM) and clear (macrocyclic lactones or 3-ML) wormers. Indeed, recent studies have shown that worms resistant to the 3-ML group, including moxidectin and ivermectin based products are on the increase. Resistance stops the drench working effectively, so resistant worms are left behind.

ZOLVIX kills all economically significant gastro-intestinal worms, even resistant strains. By eliminating worms resistant to other classes of drench, ZOLVIX will enhance the performance of entire drench programmes and help preserve the efficacy of other drenches (i.e. white, yellow and clear drenches). ZOLVIX promotes flock health, productivity and profitability.

As the autumn ewe and ram sales approach we recommend that ZOLVIX should be used as a quarantine dose to clean out all incoming stock by removing the hidden burden of resistant worms. All incoming stock including replacements, stock returning from "tack" or off-farm grazing, and new rams should be treated. Incoming stock can look perfectly healthy but carry the seed stock of future resistant worm populations, or even new worm species such as *Haemonchus contortus* which is spreading north and becoming more common.

There are currently two offers running on Zolvix – buy 2 x 1 litre and get a free gun worth £52.79 +VAT, or money-off vouchers on packs bought for quarantine dosing - £5-£30 off according to pack size.

### Lambs failing to finish?

The most common reason for this is intestinal parasites, closely followed by mineral deficiencies, such as vitamin B12 deficiency. If you are disappointed with the performance of your lambs, we can easily and quickly give you a result on a mob worm egg count to tell if worms are a problem. If there are no worms present and the nutrition appears to be good, we can then blood sample the lambs to tell if there are any specific deficiencies. See also the paragraph below on liver fluke in lambs – not a problem that traditionally we have worried about.

### Liver Fluke in Lambs

The findings from a Moredun survey on a Scottish farm clearly show that sheep farmers should not be fooled by the good weather, as fluke is very definitely active. Of 20 April-born lambs tested on this farm, 10 on 'low-risk' and 10 on 'high-risk' pasture, 18 were shown to have been exposed to fluke in June (via a blood sample) and all 20 by July. In the last fortnight, two have also produced a positive faecal egg count, meaning adult fluke are present in the lambs and laying eggs. Given that this farm is not in a traditionally fluky area, this suggests all sheep farmers should be aware of the possibility of liver fluke in their flock, including this year's spring born lambs.



## Husk Risk in August and September

Lungworm in cattle, also known as Husk, has traditionally been seen in calves in their first grazing season, but in recent years cases in older cattle, including adult cows, have become a common occurrence. The clinical signs seen in cattle are due to the presence of large numbers of larvae, adult worms, mucous and inflammatory cells in the airways. In addition, the presence of dead adult worms and secondary bacterial infections can cause severe pneumonia. Signs of the disease typically occur in August and September, although disease can be seen at grass any time between May and November. Affected cattle will cough, and may stand with their head extended and tongue out. They will often have laboured breathing, and some animals may have a slightly raised temperature or some nasal discharge. Between 50 – 100 % of the group are usually affected, and deaths are likely in at least a third of outbreaks. Runny eyes are not typical of Husk, but may indicate a mixed infection with Husk and a virus such as IBR. In such cases a much higher death rate can be expected.

Most wormers will kill lungworm and can be used for treatment if clinical signs are seen. Severely affected animals may require additional antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs. Be aware that in some years lungworm has been seen late in the autumn after the protection from strategic worming regimes has run out. If you have any groups of cattle coughing at this time of year, act quickly to treat them to prevent severe illness and growth setbacks.

## Shows

We enjoyed meeting many of you in the fine weather at Monmouth show last week. Congratulations to all of our clients who had success in the show ring with their livestock. We will also be at Usk show, so if any of you fancy some delicious cake (made by Rob's daughter Caitlin) a cup of tea or something stronger, please come and find our stand.

## Car Sticker Competition

The latest fashion accessory for your vehicle has to be a Farm First car sticker. These are available from reception, but have to be displayed in your car on receipt. Each month a prize will be awarded to one lucky client who is spotted out and about with the sticker in their vehicle.

## Joke of the Month

Two farmers, Dai and Owen, were on their way up to Carlisle for a cattle sale. On the way up, it started to snow. As the going got worse and worse, they decided to stop off at a lonely farmhouse on the side of the road. They knocked on the door and an attractive young lady came to the door. 'Excuse me' said Dai, 'we are on our way to Carlisle but the snow is getting really bad. Any chance that we can stay at your farmhouse for the night?'. 'Well' the lady said 'I'm sorry, but I've been recently widowed and if you stayed in the house people would talk. You can stay in the barn next door, if you like'. Dai and Owen decided that was fine, so settled down in the barn. Next morning they awoke and continued on their journey.

Nine months later, Dai received a solicitor's letter through the post. He opened it and after reading it decided he needed to go and speak to Owen.

'Owen,' he said, 'when we stayed with that attractive young widow all those months ago did you by any chance sneak out and visit her during the night?'

Owen looked rather sheepish and said that yes he had.

'Did you give her my name?' said Dai.

'Yes' said Owen after a pause, 'Sorry, mate, is there a problem?'

'No,' said Dai, 'Just that her solicitor has written to me to tell me that she's died and left me the farm and all her money'.