

Flunixin/Allevinix

PROPERTIES KETOPROFEN vs FLUNIXIN You are probably aware that Flunixin and Allevinix are no longer available for use in food producing animals. There are a couple of other products that can be used instead. The most similar product would be Ketofen -see table below. This product has the added benefit of a nil milk withhold and we would recommend its use in very sick, toxic animals.

<u>CATTLE</u>	<u>FLUNIXIN</u>	<u>KETOPROFEN</u>	<u>NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE</u>
Coliform mastitis : anti-endotoxic effect	Yes	Yes	✓
Bovine Respiratory Disease :			
• lower illness score,	Yes	Yes	✓
• resolution of dyspnoea	Yes	Yes	✓
• overall success rate	Yes	Yes	✓

Other alternatives would be Metacam and Rimadyl, which are longer acting. Rimadyl also has nil milk withhold, so would be a good choice for lame cows.

Ketosis Taking control of subclinical ketosis can be tricky, but there are ways to overcome the issue and prevention is better than cure. Ketosis is caused by cows being unable to match energy intake to energy requirement in the immediate post-calving period, so speak to your vet and nutritionist about appropriate diets in the transition period. Additionally, ensuring that cows have sufficient feed space and aren't being bullied at the feed rail will mean they are able to maximise intakes as much as possible.

When considering which cows will be at risk, there are several factors to be considered. The first is body condition score, with over-conditioned cows at a BCS of 3.5 or higher at particular risk. Those animals that suffered from diseases linked to negative energy balance (retained placenta, ketosis, displaced abomasum, metritis) in the previous lactation also have a higher risk of developing ketosis, as are older cows (lactation number 3 and above). Subclinical ketosis is most often a problem in the first two weeks post calving, making careful monitoring of fresh cows a key part of the management plan to combat the problem. With subclinical ketosis causing a wide range of problems, including delays in returning to heat, resulting in an increased time to first service and potentially an increased calving interval, an early 'heads up' could be extremely valuable. Alongside this, there are more obvious economic issues for cows with subclinical ketosis as they tend to be predisposed to ovarian cysts, as well as being more likely to suffer with metritis and mastitis, and of developing an LDA.

To help us detect whether you have any issues with subclinical ketosis in your herd we are able to offer you a **FREE screen of 6-10 cows** at your next routine visit. We will need to blood sample cows between 2 and 22 days calved, and the results will be available straight away. Please speak to your routine vet to organise and take advantage of this offer.

MV Rules Analysis of breakdowns in Maedi Visna accredited flocks has identified two categories of flocks associated with breakdowns. These were flocks with non-accredited sheep or goats on the same holding or flocks that bought MV-accredited sheep from another holding. Two changes to the rules of the MV accreditation scheme have been introduced bearing the above in mind. Flock owners will be required to declare each year all sheep or goats added to the flock. These added animals will require annual testing. For flocks with non-accredited sheep on the holding, 12 of these will have to be tested when the accredited sheep are tested. For flocks that do not have non-accredited animals on the same holding and that have been MV accredited for at least three years, routine periodic tests will be required every three years instead of every two years. These changes will result in cost savings for flock owners. Although it is not a requirement, it is recommended that any added sheep are tested on arrival.

BVD Tag and Test Here in Wales we are entering the second year of the Gwaredu BVD project. All our clients have been offered a herd screen at their annual TB test. Many of the positive results have been in purchased animals. As the autumn store sales approach, we are reminding farmers that it is easy to test purchased animals for BVD on arrival at the farm. Some of our clients have started ear notch testing which can give a result within a couple of hours. BVD tag and test is another option, whilst some farmers still prefer blood tests. To protect the health of the rest for the herd, purchased animals should be kept in isolation until the results are received. Positive results may indicate transient or persistent infection, so should be discussed with a vet.

Ram Fertility Testing We have seen increased interest in our Ram Fertility Testing this year. It is a good idea to check whether you have enough ram power before tupping, to maximise the number of lambs your flock will produce. If you want any of your rams tested before they are put in with the ewes, please ring us. The cost of testing one ram is £64.69 and additional rams tested at the same time would cost £52.93.

September Joke A guy unfortunately loses both of his ears in an accident at work. The surgeon tells him there are no human transplant ears available, but they have one dog's ear and one pig's ear they can transplant if he wants. The guy isn't very happy about this but soon realizes it's better than being deaf, so he agrees to go ahead with the operation. A month later, he goes back to the hospital for a check-up and the surgeon asks him how he is getting on with his new ears. The guy says, "Well, the dog ear is fantastic - I can hear for miles and no-one ever talks behind my back any more." The surgeon asks, "Great! And what about the pig's ear?" The guy says, "Well to be honest, it's not so good. I seem to be getting a lot of crackling in it."



Farm First 10th Anniversary Party It has been 10 years since Farm First Vets was set up, and to celebrate this we would like to invite our clients to a party at the Hogs Head on Saturday 17th November at 7pm. If you would like to come please ring the surgery as we need to know the numbers for the Hog Roast.

