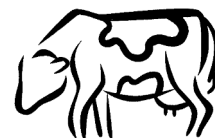


NEWSLETTER

November 2007 No17.



NORFOLK FARM VETS

Bluetongue

We have been investigating a number of suspect cases over the last month—thank you to everyone for their vigilance. Please continue to report any suspect cases so the necessary action can be taken. The blue tongue zones have been re-named. The blue tongue control zone has been changed to the blue tongue protection zone and the blue tongue protection zone is now the blue tongue surveillance zone. The movement restrictions are still the same but consult the DEFRA website for further details as the situation is always changing. www.defra.co.uk

NADIS—Central England Health Planning Project

National Animal Disease Information Service was formed over 10yrs ago to monitor diseases in cattle, sheep and pigs. It currently consists of 54 vet practices and 6 UK Veterinary Colleges.

We are now heading the Central England Group of Veterinary Practices involved in the NADIS Cattle Health Initiative. We are currently collecting herd information from all our cattle clients with regards to disease status, which is kept confidential. The data will be used to allow us to compare disease status across the all herds in our area allowing us to monitor levels of disease and better plan individual farms herd health plans.

In addition as part of the DEFRA funded scheme we are undertaking Farm Health Planning Projects on 10 farms in East Anglia; 6 Beef farms and 4 Dairies. Over the next 10 months we will be highlighting each of the farms involved and the projects they are undertaking.

In the spring we are planning to hold an open meeting for all farmers in East Anglia to allow the farms to talk about the projects they have been involved in and whether they feel they have benefited their farming enterprise by increasing productivity and profits.

www.nadis.org.uk



CONGRATULATIONS

To Barry Brooks, Gary Gray and all the staff at Beckhithe Farms who won BEEF FARMER OF THE YEAR at this month's Farmers Weekly Awards. It is an enormous achievement and accolade to be honoured in this way and recognises all the hard work and dedication which we have taken to be the norm on farm.

Ram Fertility

How fertile is your Ram? Are you concerned he's not performed as well as he should? Or do you have a new comer that you would like to assess before using him?

If so then now is the best time to get him tested! We offer a ram fertility service where we can assess his breeding soundness. It involves physical and reproductive organ examination followed by semen evaluation which is collected by electro ejaculation. One farm that benefited immensely from this last year investigated the breeding soundness of their rams as only 30% of the ewes were in lamb. 5 out 13 rams failed the fertility test for various reasons. Identifying the fertility problem allowed the situation to be rectified before the end of the breeding season avoiding a disastrous lambing percentage.

SAC BVD scheme

Forms for the BVD Eradication Premium Cattle Health Scheme Membership are being sent out by the SAC to farms which have already subscribed or had previous samples taken for this scheme. It isn't necessary to repeat your application if the above applies to you as the membership is ongoing so we apologise on behalf of the SAC. If you are weaning your young stock then now is an ideal time to test them for BVD (>9mths old). Get in touch to arrange an appointment or to discuss the scheme.

The good old days!

From driving around and chatting to various people we are becoming increasingly aware and interested in the memories people have about farming and associated industries from days gone by. This was highlighted recently when we were talking to John Baxter at his Knacker Yard. His family has been in the business since the 1700's and he has some amazing tales to tell. Therefore, if anyone has any stories, memories or photographs etc. that they would like to share please get in touch—we'd be fascinated to gather some more information.

FOR SALE:

35 (approx.) Hereford cross cows with Simmental cross calves at foot (August born) Contact: John Smith at Chalk Hill Farm 07884490368

Pneumonia Vaccination

Veterinary costs of pneumonia in a 6mo calf total, on average, £40 per animal (not including loss of production which is the major factor). Vaccination costs from as little as £4.50 per animal. So please consider vaccinating your animals at housing to avoid significant calf mortality and severe reduction in growth rates. Give us a ring to discuss the products available and which would suit you.

CONGRATULATIONS

Gary Zoller, Ross, Emma and James Haddow all completed the Dublin Marathon at the end of October. Congratulations to them all;

Gary Zoller	3.21.14
Emma Haddow	4.47.48
James Haddow	5.37.15
Ross Haddow	6.18.53

Reminder: The time for beef cattle pregnancy diagnosis has come, book early to ensure we can come at a time suitable for you. Pregnancy diagnosis saves you money by identifying empty animals that are costing you money and allows better stock management around calving time.

LAMBING HELP

Is anyone in need of a vet student to help at lambing/calving time? If so let us know as we are compiling a list of farms, which would benefit from accommodating a student, to send to the Royal Vet College. The information we need from you is when you are lambing? Who to contact? how many weeks you need them for? and whether you can accommodate them?

Courses

We are running a series of afternoon courses starting on January 9th in North Norfolk on;

Sheep & Goat Foot trimming	Jan 9th
Safe injecting & use of medicines	Jan 16th
Lambing & Kidding techniques	Jan 23rd

£30 per person per course; max 10 per course. These are practical courses held on farm with everyone getting a chance to hone their skills.

Call The Training Association on 01485 600225

Parasite Forecast

Fluke (*Fasciola Hepatica*)

Background

Liver fluke is a nematode that lives in the bile ducts of the liver and in high numbers causes severe damage resulting in clinical disease and huge losses in production. The life cycle can only be completed if the specific species of snail host is present. The snail is found in wet areas of pasture, therefore historically the disease was common in the West of England due to the higher rainfall. However, over the past few years Fluke has become a significant problem in East Anglia and this year, as we have had such a wet summer, the risk of disease is high.

Clinical signs

Treating early is by far the best way to avoid losses. If you do not prevent disease you are likely to encounter the following clinical signs - sudden deaths, progressive weight loss, reduced milk yield, bottlejaw and abdominal swelling due to the accumulation of fluid. By the time these signs are present you have a significant problem which needs to be tackled immediately. Liver fluke tends to be more severe in sheep and goats and certainly the main clinical sign in sheep can be sudden death!!

Prevention & Treatment

As mentioned last month the risk of Fluke is high this Autumn and is likely to be prevalent in both sheep and cattle, so make sure you send in your **faecal samples** to assess your disease risk!! The cost is presently £11.55 + VAT.

There is some known resistance to some of the flukicides so please discuss with us the most appropriate treatment for you. At this time of year the most appropriate treatment for cattle is a flukicide which targets the immature fluke (not just the adults). Sheep and goats can be treated similarly, however, a flukicide which targets all stages of fluke is essential as the fluke season with these species is much less defined.

Products and Approx cost per animal (not incl VAT)

Cattle:

Fasinex (fluke) drench:

200kg = 80p / 600kg = £2.40

Trodax (fluke) injection:

200kg = 70p / 600kg = £2

Closamectin (fluke and worms) injection:

200kg = £1.50 / 600kg = £4.50

Combinex (fluke and worms) drench:

200kg = £1 / 600kg = £3

Sheep:

Fasinex (fluke) drench:

30kg = 15p / 60kg = 30p

Trodax (fluke) injection:

30kg = 10p / 60kg = 24p

Combinex (fluke and worms) drench:

30kg = 20p / 60kg = 40p

Contact details: Telephone 01485 609031 Fax: 01485 609029. Emergency: 07920104174

e-mail: norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com