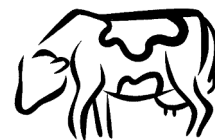


NEWSLETTER



NORFOLK FARM VETS

December 2007 No18.



Christmas Raffle

You may notice that there is a raffle ticket attached to this newsletter. Keep it safe as we will be drawing 2 raffle tickets out of a hat and if you are one of these lucky people you will be receiving a luxury Christmas hamper full of local produce to enjoy!

BCVA Congress

After returning from the annual Cattle Vet Congress held in Glasgow at the end of November we have some words of wisdom we thought may be of interest:

- **Pneumonia** - The causal agents are often a combination of viral and bacterial pathogens so antibiotics are essential in clinical cases however, a strong emphasis was made on the importance of the inclusion of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (e.g. Flunixin) in the treatment protocol to stop the inflammatory cycle and the damage it causes to the lungs. Also be aware that some anaphylactic reactions can occur with some causal agents e.g. RSV so including steroids on top of the above (never alone) may also be advantageous as can bronchodilators to alleviate breathing difficulties associated with narrow airways. Also of note is that genetic susceptibility to pneumonia has become evident in double muscled breeds.
- **Analgesia (painkillers)** - It is certainly advantageous to give the NSAID Flunixin before surgery on cattle due to its central and peripheral actions on the nervous system. Analgesia is extremely effective used in this way as it prevents the pain pathway being initiated and hence speeds recovery. In addition, in order to maintain this state analgesia, Flunixin should be continued post-operatively for 3-5 days.
- **Coccidiosis** - There is a difference in pre-patent periods (PPP) for coccidiosis picked up indoors compared to outdoors. Indoors this depends on species but the PPP is usually 2-3 **weeks** and the disease is seen 2-3 days before oocysts present in the faeces. Outdoors the PPP is 2-3 **days** and again the disease is seen before oocysts are produced in the faeces. Therefore, on farms with a known problem, timing the use of the preventative treatments e.g. Baycox bovis (Tolazuril) and Vecoxan, using the above information, is essential to avoid disease outbreaks.
- **Mamyzin Injection to treat persistent intramammary infection** - In a recent trial cure rates of >75% were at the quarter level and >55% at the cow level. There was no significant difference found between treatment course of 4 days compared to an off label 7 days except with Corynebacterium. The systemic nature of mamyzin treats all 4 quarters which is less labour intensive and more cost effective. If a cure is not evident at the end of treatment then a resistant pathogen is the likely causative agent. Antibiotic sensitivity should be done on a milk sample to see if another treatment may be effective but culling maybe the most sensible option.
- **Predictions for Blue Tongue next year** - Vaccination is currently being developed by three large drugs companies and it should be available by the summer. Being in the area most at risk we should receive the vaccine first. If we can vaccinate all susceptible animals then disease eradication may be possible so hopefully we can avoid the losses that have affected the Continent this year. A problem that may become evident after this years insult is infertility in Bulls and Rams as Bluetongue can be carried in semen—so it is worthwhile fertility testing your breeding males and pregnancy testing your females to avoid any unexpected losses. We have several clients where apparently healthy rams and bulls have become infertile half way through the season and these are potentially due to Bluetongue virus.

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

e-mail: norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com

FOR SALE:

Aberdeen Angus Bull, Contact Trevor Stebbings on 01485 630603.

3.5 year old Holstein Friesian bull. By Journalist out of a VG cow.

Contact James Ashworth on: 01328 855400.

The OCDS

The OCDS comes to an end in December 2008. This affects all cattle born before 1st August 1996. Any animal born prior to this will be valued 10% lower than today at £195 from 1st January 2008 and will have no residual value as of December 2008.

Before you all go out and cull these animals if they are born prior to August 1996 but ARE in calf then the calf alone is worth in excess of £195 and these animals should be kept until they are no longer getting back in calf. However, if pre August 1996 animals are not in calf then they should be removed from the herd as soon as possible.

You can only make an informed and financially sensible decision if you know what is and what is not in calf and this requires pregnancy diagnosis.

So get those pds booked in asap.



Runners Re-union

There is to be a reunion of all the runners and the support staff from our infamous Round Norfolk Relay Team on Sunday 16th December after a 6.5k "jog"

around the woods at Shouldham. Join us for the run or just in the pub afterwards, approx 1pm at the pub on the green in Shouldham.. The more the merrier!!

As most of you are aware we are strongly behind the campaign to encourage people to buy locally and reduce food miles, hence we recommend that everyone buy locally either via the Fakenham Farmers Market on the 4th Saturday of the month or directly from the producers listed below:

Duncan Jeary	Beef	07880 508104
Mrs Temple	Cheese	01328 820224
Pointen Bros.	Dairy Produce	01263 860338
John Garner	Game, lamb, turkeys	01328 700277
Houghton Hall	Lamb, Mutton, Beef, Pork and Eggs	07793 208655
Sandringham Beef and Lamb	West Newton Shop	01485 542219
Courtyard Farms Ltd.	Beef, Lamb and Pork	07789 366080
Perfick Pork	Pork & Lamb	01328 829317
Mr Day, Hindolveston	Beef, Lamb and Vegetables	Farmers Market.
Simon Dann	Norfolk Farmhouse Ice-cream	On Farm/Local Shops.
Gavin Lane	Salt Marsh Beef	sales@saltmarshbeef.co.uk
Van Beuningen	Ash Farm Organics	On Farm and Markets

Avian Influenza

Another notifiable disease has emerged in East Anglia. Defra are currently dealing with the situation but it is worth being aware of the following if you are a poultry keeper:

Clinical Signs:

- Swelling of the head
- Blue comb and wattle
- Dullness
- Loss of appetite
- Respiratory distress
- Diarrhoea
- Decrease production of eggs

Transmission:

- Direct contact (faeces)
- Vehicles, equipment, personnel
- Wild birds

According to the Defra website the national ban on bird gatherings has been lifted outside the Restricted Zones. Movement restrictions apply in the Protection, Surveillance and Restricted Zones. Bird Keepers in these zones are required to house or otherwise isolate their birds from wild birds. For further details on the location of the zones etc. refer to the Defra website: www.defra.gov.uk

LATE PAYMENT FEES

Due to the occasional problem in getting payments we have been forced to introduce a late payment fee which will be added to accounts which are paid late from next month.

If you have genuine problems paying then just let us know and obviously we will discuss things and sort out a payment plan.

We are acutely aware of the difficulties suffered by farmers this year but as a new company we will also struggle to carry a significant amount on outstanding accounts.

Local Produce

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