

NEWSLETTER

November 2008 No 29.



PREVENTION IS BETTER (+CHEAPER!) THAN CURE

With people bringing stock home now is the time to think about preventing disease in housed animals.

The young are especially at risk of developing both scours & pneumonia, which can have a significant impact on growth rates and welfare.



Pneumonia can result in death when animals are severely affected but in chronic sub-clinical cases it can have a massive effect on production. Treatment of pneumonia is usually effective if caught early, but it is expensive and may not be effective in advanced cases. By far the best way to avoid any problems is to vaccinate. There are many different vaccines available as there are many bugs that can cause pneumonia (BRSV, IBR, BVD, PI3, pasteurella and mycoplasma) on their own or in combination.

If you know what pathogens are cycling on your farm then it is relatively straight forward to decide on what vaccine is needed. However, most people don't know what's cycling or buy in animals regularly hence changing the pathogens present, therefore for most farms the best course of action is to use a vaccine that covers a number of pathogens. Better still if there are individuals that are coughing then we can take diagnostic samples to find out exactly what's causing the problem.

There are 2 routes of giving pneumonia vaccines; *intranasal and intramuscular* vaccines. *Intranasal* vaccines are a single dose, have a quick up take and last for several months whereas *intramuscular* vaccines require 2 doses, hence the course needs starting prior to the risk period, but they give longer cover.

The cost of vaccinating for pneumonia is between £4 & £6 per dose in comparison to the cost of treating a sick which costs on average of £25 per animal not including the cost of lost growth rates.

Scours in very young calves carry a high risk of death and can be very frustrating to treat often resulting in deaths despite significant time and effort invested in treating individual animals repeatedly with oral fluids and antibiotics. Most neonatal scours are a result of environmental problems e.g. wet and dirty calving areas whether they be in the field or in yards and time should always be invested in keeping the environment as clean and dry as possible, however, there are vaccines available that can significantly improve the situation by boosting the immunity levels in the calves.

Any herd infected with **BVD** will have poorer immunity in its stock and hence the animals are more prone to come down with disease including scours. Finding out the status of your herd is still cheap with the Norfolk and Suffolk BVD eradication scheme and infected herds can vaccinate at a cost of approx £2 per animal dramatically improving the immunity of the stock.

Another approach is to vaccinate directly against some of the most widespread and damaging causes of neonatal calf scours; Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E.Coli K99. This vaccine is given as a single jab to the dams in the muscle between 12 and 3 weeks pre calving and the antibodies to protect against these diseases are passed to the calf in the dam's colostrum. It is an excellent vaccine but it is dependent upon ensuring that calves get colostrum. The cost of the vaccine is approx £10 per animal. Remember that colostrum is **liquid gold** and every calf from every dam on every farm needs 2 litres of colostrum in the first 6 hours if it is to thrive!



For more information on the vaccines available or to discuss testing animals call the practice.

Contact details: Telephone 01485 609031 Fax: 01485 609029. Emergency: 07920104174
e-mail: norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com Website: www.norfolkfarmvets.co.uk
Address: 30 Gayton Road, Grimston, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1BG.

For Sale:

6 week old kittens, all different colours, long & short haired, very cute & friendly, litter trained call Linda on 01263 587466

People:

Trevor Buxton full time milker with years of experience needs house with job call 07909935597

Pauline Buxton - Sheep Dog Training call 07979500879

Overdue accounts

We are very aware that money is tight for a lot of people as Norfolk, the UK and the world slip into the 'R' word. However, we have an increasing number of overdue accounts and our accountants are insisting that we are stricter with chasing payment. Therefore, unless you discuss any issues with your account with us or we have arranged an alternative, we will be adding late payment charges to all accounts that have not been paid by the end of each month. If you are having difficulty paying please get in touch and talk to us about it and we can try and sort out a

Newsletters

We hope everyone enjoys our monthly newsletter. However, we print and send an awful lot. Therefore, our 'green', computer literate side has prevailed and we would like to ask everyone who can to send us your e-mail addresses so we can e-mail you a copy instead. Our e-mail address is: norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com

Alternatively, you can let us know via the 'contact us' part of our website at www.norfolkfarmvets.co.uk. Don't forget you can access all our newsletters on our website.

Whats New.....Molly has been away on a course recently looking at new approaches to treating the individual sick animal. Time was spent looking at the value of some of the tests we do and what we can do "cow side" at the time that can improve success rates of treatment. in both calves and cows.

The biggest take home message was the use of fluids, especially in calves and very sick cows and the huge positive impact for very little cost these can make. For calves we will often carry sufficient fluids in our cars to give them iv however a cow needs approx 30L so if you have any water containers on farm clean these out and fill them with cold boiled water and keep them somewhere to hand so if we have to treat that very sick cow we can add to these the salt required to give this i.v.

We will soon also have access to equipment which will allow us to make key decisions on farm without having to send away samples. We will be able to look at whether; a calf has had sufficient colostrum using a refractometer, or a cow is carrying a systemic infection by looking at fibrinogen levels, or to see whether a cow has a wire or she has evidence of liver or kidney disease. We also hope soon to be able to do all worm and fluke egg analysis and blood smears in house hence reducing the time it takes to get results and hence make decisions on treatment..

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	Organic Beef, Lamb and Pork	01485 525251 or courtyardfarm.organic@virgin.net
Perfick Pork	Pork, Lamb, Chicken & Beef	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	01362 683228 www.ashfarmorganics.co.uk
Mrs. Willcox	Mohair Socks, Preserves, Eggs	Erpingham House Farm
Linda Cletheroe	Seasonal Fresh Vegetable	01263 587466 / 07780930903 Lindafreshveg.vpweb.co.uk Farmers Market

If your name is missing just call the office and we will add your details.

Local Produce

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