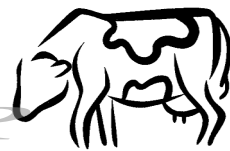


NEWSLETTER

April 2010 No 46



NORFOLK FARM VETS

Disease Focus

Nematodirus in Lambs

Scouring in young lambs can be caused by a variety of organisms but frequently coccidia and/or the roundworm *Nematodirus* are involved. Coccidia infections tend to occur in lambs of around 4-6 weeks of age and *Nematodirus* disease typically in lambs of 6-10 weeks-old although summer and autumn cases of nematodiosis have also been reported. The two species of *Nematodirus* that are commonly found in sheep in the UK are *N.battus* and, *N.filicollis*, but *N.battus* is the most often associated with outbreaks of disease.

Clinical presentation

Only lambs are affected by nematodiosis, ewes do not show disease. The first sign normally seen is a sudden onset diarrhoea which is watery and profuse. This therefore leads to faecal staining of the wool at the lambs back end. In addition, the lambs are often clinically ill. They are dull, stop sucking and rapidly dehydrate and loose weight. If the disease is not identified and treated, the rapid dehydration can lead to deaths, and serious weight loss in the remaining lambs. Up to 5% can typically die with the initial infection in less than a week. Even the lambs that recover can take up to 2-3 months longer to reach slaughter weight, adding to the financial losses.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis is based upon the clinical signs outlined above. Where we would normally diagnose intestinal parasites based on faeces testing, this is not possible with this disease as it is the developing larvae and adults before they lay eggs that cause the problem. Postmortem examination may reveal very large numbers of developing larval stages and adults within the small intestine.

Treatment

Sheep should be moved from infested pastures whenever possible and treated with an anthelmintic immediately. There does not appear to be any anthelmintic resistance associated with *Nematodirus* so all groups of wormers should be effective.

Management/Prevention/Control measures

The best way of preventing disease is to avoid pasture grazed by lambs in the previous year. As adults are highly resistant to the disease, they do not excrete significant numbers of eggs. In contrast, land grazed by lambs in the last season will be heavily contaminated. This is because the infective stages are very resistant to drying and cold weather, and will overwinter on the pasture in the eggs.

These eggs will hatch when the temperature reaches a mean of 10 °C after a period of cold, i.e in the spring.

This weather sensitive hatch will occur every year on permanent pasture. However, clinical disease will only occur if this hatch coincides with young lambs beginning to graze. Therefore, anthelmintic treatment of susceptible lambs varies on each farm each year, and should be based on climatic conditions, time of turnout and parasite forecasts (available from the NADIS website).

Economics

While anthelmintics are relatively inexpensive, the time and management problems associated with treatment are often marked, especially when ewes and lambs are at pasture. In addition, over-use of anthelmintics has led to resistance in certain classes of drugs and once this resistance has developed, it is very unlikely to ever disappear. Therefore, targeted use of wormers is essential and should form part of your overall flock health plan.

Caption Competition

We are very pleased to be again supporting the Royal Norfolk Show.

Norfolk Farm Vets will be sponsoring the goat classes and the Angus classes again at this year's show.

We therefore have a number of show tickets to give away so it's time for the annual caption competition—see what you can do with this picture of Ben our Office Administrator.



For Sale:

Aberdeen Angus Bulls—Five, two year old bulls available now.

Contact Trevor Stebbings on 01553 630603.

Limousin Bulls—Well bred, nice temperament. 13 months and 17 months.

Contact Mr. Denby on 07961357243.

Miniature Pig—Free to a good home (not meat!).

Contact Naomi Schrier on 01553 827550.

Limousin Bull—Unregistered but pedigree.

Contact Scott McInnes on: 07876 047746.

Kerry Hill Shearling Ewes. Also selected rams and ewe lambs. Contact Glenariff Pedigree Livestock, call Nick or Andrew on 01553 672440

EB Feed Hopper—13 tonne, fibreglass with low level discharge. Perfect condition. EB feeder system also available. Contact James Ashworth on: 07715 464832.

People/Equipment:

Stockman—Self employed stockman (Beef, Dairy and Sheep) Trained in DIY AI & qualified foot trimmer (Dutch Method) available from March onwards, all positions considered, no accommodation needed, Norfolk area only - Lee Oakes 01553 672440

For Hire—**Mobile Cattle Handling** including pen, race and crush with weigh scales. **Cow Catcher** with operator. Call Will Hancock on: 07979641597.

Mobile Sheep Handling—Pratley mobile sheep handling system. For hire with operator.

Call Mr. Fletcher on: 07977040358.

Molecatcher—for hire. Tracey Palmer: 01485 600717.

Pauline Buxton—Sheep dog training: 07979500879.

Please call the office if you would like us to put an add in for next month. Thanks.

Free Training!

Have you ever wondered.....How we get semen from rams or bulls? Have you ever wondered what on earth Johnes is? Why you have fluke even though you routinely worm? Whether it would benefit you to vaccinate against BVD, Leptospirosis, IBR or Husk? Or do you have any other unanswered questions? Well now is the time to ask as, we presently have funding through the NADIS EEDA project for 1:1 discussion with farmers to increase their understanding of disease. You can come into the practice or we can come onto farm and our time won't cost you a penny! Just call Rachel to book in a 1:1 or speak to one of the vets.

Events

Will is giving a talk on Bull Fertility on 6th April for the Terrington St Clement Young Farmers Club.

Kat is giving a talk to the Norfolk Smallholders Training Group on 25th April all about Sheep Health issues from lameness to parasite control and injection techniques.

TB Meeting

We are presently arranging an open meeting with Animal Health/DEFRA regarding TB. The meeting will be hosted by Animal Health to discuss how we can try and keep TB from getting a foothold in Norfolk, what happens if you get reactor or inconclusive reactors and the truth about how reliable the tests are. There will then be a session for you to ask whatever questions you want and air any grievances! So watch this space for a date. The meeting will be open to all livestock keepers in Norfolk.

For information on all the other training courses please see Rachel's Training Newsletter.

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:

Mrs Temple	Cheese	01328 820224
Pointen Bros.	Dairy Produce	01263 860338
John Garner	Game, lamb, turkeys	01328 700277
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	Pork, Lamb, Veg, Knitting wool	Hindolveston. 01263 860578
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 www.lindasfreshveg.co.uk
Moore's Livestock, Oak Farm	Beef, Pork, Free Range Eggs	Farmers Market
Rudi Jennings	Free range goat meat	01553 630772/07900 491679 01945 585467

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

Local Produce