nantwich farm vets



Crewe Road End Nantwich Cheshire CW5 5SF

24hr phone line: 01270 610349

April 2019

Dates for your diary

2nd April 11am-1pm	BVD Stamp It Out Meeting Aimed at beef clients. Contact Laura if interested
14 th April	Cholmondeley Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot See below for details
May, dates TBC	Dairyland Foot Trimming Course Contact Steve or the office if you are interested.
7th June 11:15am-2pm	Medicines Course Ring office to book. Includes lunch. £65.
2 nd Iulv	Sheen Meeting

Ring office to book.very useful for many of yoIncludes lunch. £65.encourage you to help us keeSheep Meetingby ordering drugs a day or twSee below for detailsand not ordering multiple dro

CHOLMONDELEY CHARITY CLAY PIGEON SHOOT

Sunday 14th April, 10AM-2PM Park Farm, Cholmondeley, SY14 8HN

All proceeds to Air Ambulance and Hope House Childrens' Hospice

> For more info please call: Kit 07803 267789 or Phil 07971 088245

April brings about some exciting changes for us as a practice – relocating our farm practice to our site at Hurleston towards the end of the month not the least of these. We are sure it will enable us to provide a better service to our clients all round. Farm drugs will still be available from the small animal practice in Market Drayton too.

From May 1st, our dispensary is no longer going to be open on Sunday mornings or Bank Holidays, so make sure you pick up any medicines you need earlier in the week. Our 24-hour emergency service obviously remains the same.

Just a note on our free drop-off service: we know this is very useful for many of you, but we would like to encourage you to help us keep it as efficient as possible by ordering drugs a day or two prior to a routine visit, and not ordering multiple drop-offs in a week.

SHEEP FARMER MEETING

VACCINES – WHAT, WHEN & WHY

- Still confused about the Heptavac-P schedule?
- Unsure which vaccines are appropriate for your flock?
- Concerns over cost-benefit?

If you have ANY queries regarding vaccinations in sheep then come to our meeting!

DATE: 2nd July 2019 TIME: 2PM VENUE: Nantwich Farm Vets, Chester Road, Hurleston, CW5 6BU COST: £30

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

www.nantwichvetgroup.co.uk



Scouring cows

Rob George reflects on common causes of diarrhoea outbreaks in the adult dairy herd

Over the last 6 months we have seen a number of farms with scouring adult cows, some pyrexic (with raised temperatures) and others not. Over the range of farms it seems to have affected different stages of lactation. The onset of the scours has often appeared to coincide with changes in silage introduction new clamps. of feedstuffs plus increased purchased feed fed and a possible arrival of starlings, purchased cows and on some farms, lack of rodent control. We'll discuss a few general infectious and non-infectious causes of diarrhoea in the adult herd.

INFECTIOUS

i) Salmonella

We have had several Salmonella outbreaks in recent months. Salmonella species infection occurs when a susceptible animal ingests the bacteria via feed or water contaminated with faeces from animals shedding the organism. Salmonella infection manifests itself in a number of ways in dairy cattle, from asymptomatic to mild clinical signs to full on septicaemia and endotoxaemia with abortion storms when pregnant cattle are infected. These manifestations vary with the virulence of the strain, infectious dose and immunity of the host. As well as the infectious spread within the herd, it must be remembered that Salmonella species some are potentially zoonotic.

Salmonella can enter an uninfected herd through:

• Replacement stock

Recovered cattle after an outbreak can often act as carriers of the bacteria for a very long time. These animals can appear healthy but shed bacteria in times of stress, infecting other animals they are in contact This is the most common with. source of infection for Salmonella Dublin. Recent studies show 5% of apparently healthy dairy cows may be shedding organisms in their faeces. Also 20% of all sick cows on the cull list can shed Salmonella spp. Salmonella can become endemic in herds because of this.

Recovered cattle can act as carriers of Salmonella for a very long time

• Physical contact

Salmonella can be brought into a herd via birds, rodents, feral cats, dogs, vehicles and also rarely, farm visitors. It is often assumed that most *Salmonella typhimurium* outbreaks are caused by these possibilities.



Birds and other wildlife can be potential sources of infection into and within a herd

- Animal to animal spread Nose-to-nose contact between animals on neighbouring farms.
- Slurry

S Dublin is known to persist in slurry for up to 1 month (reports of 1 year in dry muck and warm climates) and can survive in soil for up to 1 year. Grazing animals are susceptible to infection when grazing pasture which was previously treated with contaminated slurry.

• Feedstuffs/water

Water courses infected by neighbouring stock can act as a source of infection.



Watercourses that run through neighbouring holdings are a potential source of infection

Feedstuffs can act as a source of salmonella infection in the event of infected rodents/wild birds contaminating the feed. This is certainly a route *S typhimurium* infection can occur, however there have been a number of farms with Salmonella Type C isolated in recent months. These are referred to as exotic species. *Salmonella mbandaka* is the Type C species most frequently isolated in our

region this winter. There have also been a lot of outbreaks of *S mbandaka* in southern Scotland over the last 12 months. It has been suggested it has entered farms on contaminated byproducts from the human foods production, and that wild birds have further transferred it from farm to farm within the area.

Once in the herd Salmonella infection can be transmitted from cow to cow by:

- Faeco-oral transmission
- Aerosol transmission in confined facilities
- Saliva and nasal secretions especially in shared water troughs
- Milk and colostrum

Risk factors for salmonella:

- More frequent in dairy herds
- More common around calving time/fresh cows
- More common in large herds
- Expanding herds (buying in)
- Confinement / high stocking
- Sick and calving cows comingling
- High density of feral cats
- Wild birds having access to feed storage facilities
- Use of flush water systems in housing
- Feeding human food byproducts (several cases reported/suspected in last 12 months)

ii) Winter dysentery

Caused by Coronavirus, it can cause herd outbreaks of explosive diarrhoea during winter in housed cattle, which may contain blood. It rapidly spreads through the herd via the faeco-oral route and can affect up to 50% of the herd. It generally resolves over 2 to 3 weeks. We have tested a lot of farms for this this winter, but not isolated any as yet.

iii) Liver Fluke

Mainly causes diarrhoea in severely infected individual cattle, although most of the rest of the herd will be in thin body condition. We've seen very little fluke in the last 12 months. Weather last year affected fluke infestation.



Chronic liver fluke infection will cause poor body condition more widely in the herd, as well as diarrhoea in severely affected individuals.

iv) Individual cows

The list here is long but Johne's disease should be considered in any scouring cow, but is unlikely to cause a herd outbreak.

NON-INFECTIOUS

i) Subacute rumen acidosis

Forage shortages and in some cases poorer quality forage have resulted in high levels of concentrate feeding on some farms to compensate, which may result in acidosis. I've seen herds eating on average 3kg DM of forage less than usual. This shortfall has been made up with concentrate. Milk has stayed up and in a lot of cases increased, hence UK milk volume production in December and January have been the highest for 20 odd years (AHDB data). Some farms have struggled with milk butterfat percentages because of the lack of This forage fibre. will undoubtably be a detriment to overall cow health, fertility and



Mould contamination on silage can contam mycotoxins which can cause diarrhoea, as well as other clinical problems in the herd.

farmer profitability, and experts feel milk may drop in the second quarter because of it.

ii) Toxic/irritant feedstuffs

Grass mould contamination, mycotoxins, high levels of specific minerals (e.g molvbdenum, magnesium- though these are rarely a problem) and high levels of protein can all cause diarrhoea but are more difficult to diagnose. There has been a lot of maize harvested last year with a fungus known as smut on it from stresses borne by the plant during the dry weather. Not sure how significant that has been for the cows this winter but farms that had a lot of smut have found it difficult to balance their diets and get the cows muck consistent.

So what should you do?

As a general rule, most herd outbreaks of infectious diarrhoea tend to resolve within a month (certainly less if the Salmonella species allow Bovivac S vaccine to be used), whereas nutritional causes tend to be ongoing but not as severe in terms of cow health problems. However, all ongoing causes of diarrhoea will reduce nutrient absorption, milk yield and cow body condition (and so future fertility) - so identifying and managing the underlying causes and risk areas on your farm is important for responding or preventing any scour to outbreak.

www.nantwichvetgroup.co.uk



As your cattle go out to graze this spring continue to bear parasites in mind. Lungworm remains that unpredictable and elusive disease where we may not notice overt clinical signs whilst it still can cause damage to the respiratory tract and reduce milk production. MSD claim that a moderate case of lungworm infection in a 100 cow dairy herd costs >£15,000.

Lifecycle of Dictyocaulus viviparus:

The diagram below shows the general lifecycle, but much is affected by temperature and rainfall. A good rule of thumb is that environmental conditions that encourage grass growth are the same as those that encourage development of lungworm larvae on the pasture. The most common time to see an outbreak is late summer - early autumn when the pasture burden is greatest. It is possible for lungworm larvae to overwinter on the land.

Possible signs that you may have lungworm in your herd:

- Increased respiratory rate at rest
- Frequent coughing, particularly after short periods of exercise
- Reduced bulk tank literage

Affected herds may appear similar suffering from those IBR to outbreaks – be sure to consider both diseases separately and in conjunction.

Some important things to remember when it comes to lungworm management....

Introduction of replacement stock

- If there is a high worm burden on your pasture and the incoming stock do not have good immunity then you could see a severe outbreak of disease
- If the incoming stock do not have solid immunity then a much lower burden may be enough to cause problems



Vets Mobile Numbers

Dave Shaw **Rob George** John Manson John Yarwood Stuart Russell Peter Duncalfe Laura Donovan

Steven Crowe Mike Wilkinson Jake Lawson Amy Cox Sarah Williamson 07812 173942 Joe Mitchell Lewis Hodgson

Lungworm

Amy Cox provides some quick pointers on lungworm and its prevention in your herd ahead of the grazing season.

Adult animals

- Most will be immune and therefore resistant
- May act as carriers
- Will still contribute to pasture burden
- Be wary that adults may still need worming if they have not built sufficient immunity as youngsters

Beef cattle

suckler Typically calves are exposed to continuous low levels of lungworm on pasture that they graze with their dams so outbreaks are less commonly seen.

Prevention

Huskvac remains an important part of lungworm prevention but it must be remembered that the vaccine reauires natural exposure of vaccinated animals to lungworm on the pasture in order to boost immunity. This is relevant whenever the vaccine is used. For example: If you have used wormers heavily eg. during heifers' first grazing season, so that animals have not acquired immunity then be sure to vaccinate the following season.

Other preventative strategies, as well as the use of Huskvac, include:

- Good sanitation and pasture management eg. avoid grazing same pasture year on year for your youngstock where possible
- Minimal overcrowding
- Avoid co-grazing with sheep/goats

Vet Tech Services

Laura Tomlinson 07889794981 **Rachel Shelley** 07881385014



@NantwichFarmVet