

nantwich farm vets



Crewe Road End
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 5SF

24hr phone line: 01270 610349

June 2017



Dates for your diary

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 5th June | Weston Discussion
Group Farm Walk

Top O' the Town Farm |
| 29th June
11am | Lucerne Discussion Group
by kind permission of Tom
and Sarah Mansell, Tilstone
Bank Farm |
| 7th July
7pm | Farm walk and
summer BBQ

Huntington Hall Farm |
| July-
September | Dairyland Foot Trimming
course
Already half full so book
early to avoid
disappointment! |
| Exact dates
TBC | |

Bluetongue confirmed in northern France

Officials raised concern for south-easterly farmers as Bluetongue virus currently lies only 150km from the English south coast in a previously disease-free area. Symptoms of the disease include: mouth ulcers; drooling; swelling of the mouth; head and neck; fever; lameness and breathing problems. The latest assessment from APHA shows the risk of outbreak in the UK is currently low, but the detection of the virus in northern France is a timely reminder for us to remain vigilant and to consider vaccination of valuable stock. Risk of bluetongue recirculating in the UK is said to be low but farmers have been warned to be sensible about buying cattle from infected areas.



New homes wanted for feral cats

Cats protection have lots of feral cats free to farm homes. They are all spayed/castrated and vaccinated before leaving the rehoming centre. If you're interested in some free pest control please call 01270 588710.



New forest eye

This month, vet **Sarah Williamson** discusses this common summer condition and how you can prevent it affecting your cattle

New Forest Eye also known as Pinkeye or infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis (IBK), is a bacterial disease of the eye of the cattle. *Moraxella bovis* is the primary cause of the disease. The financial cost of New Forest Eye is due to decreased weight gain, increased treatment costs, and market discounts due to eye disfigurement and blindness.

Factors involved in the disease

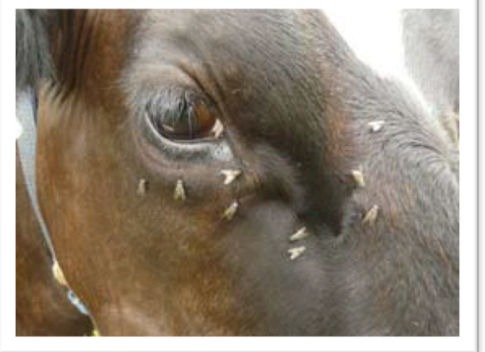
New Forest eye is a highly contagious and infectious disease. The ability of *M. bovis* to cause the disease is influenced by host (the cattle) and environmental factors. The predisposing factors are - breeds lacking eye pigment, young animals, poor host immune system, UV light exposure, high face fly population, nutritional deficiencies (Vitamin A, Copper and Selenium), presence of other disease agents (Chlamydia,

Mycoplasma, *Branhemella* (*Moraxella*) *ovis* and *Acholeplasma*, or viruses such as the IBR virus)- hot months, and conditions that causes eye irritation - dust, tall grasses, weeds, or any other element creating mechanical injury to the eye,

Transmission of the disease

Cattle are the reservoir for the bacteria. The same strain can remain on the farm in carrier animals from year to year. *M. bovis* is transmitted by animal handlers or direct contact with eye and nose discharges of infected animals, contact with fomites (equipment or hands that can carry the disease), and most

commonly by flies. The face fly (*Musca autumnalis*), the house fly (*Musca domestica*), and the stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) are instrumental in spreading the disease.



Clinical signs

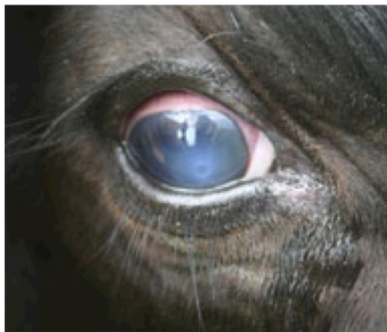
The clinical presentation of the disease, persistence of infection, and rate of progression will vary from animal to animal. One or both eyes may be involved. The incubation period is usually two to three days, but can extend to up to three weeks.

The progression of the disease is divided into several stages as follows:



Stage 1 – excessive blinking, avoidance of light, conjunctivitis and a lot of watery discharge are the earliest signs of the disease. There is a grey appearance of the cornea due to seepage of inflammatory fluid. The eye discharge starts out watery but can soon become cloudy. If both eyes are involved, the animal may be hesitant to move. Affected cattle have less of an appetite due to pain and a moderate fever.

Stage 2 – within 24–48 h after the onset of clinical signs described in stage 1, a small grey cloudy area develops usually in the centre of the cornea and radiates out over the whole cornea. During the next few days, blood vessels grow across the cornea from the outside.



Stage 3 - Corneal ulceration may develop at this stage. The entire cornea will have a grey-white to yellow colour with deep, central ulceration of the cornea within six days. Considerable individual variation occurs. Spreading of the inflammation to the inner eye and filling with fibrin gives the eye a yellowish appearance.

Stage 4 - Some animals recover spontaneously in three to five weeks- the ulcer heals and reduces, leaving a scar. In some cases the process becomes chronic, and the opacity takes 1–2 months to resolve. In other cases, there is perforation of the corneal ulcer results in iris prolapse, in which case, blindness will result.

Once healing occurs the blood vessels will recede. The eye may continue to be a cloudy, blue colour. The blue appearance may eventually resolve and the eye appears clear again. Treatment *M. bovis* is often susceptible to oxytetracycline, ceftiofur, and penicillin. Antibiotics may be administered by subconjunctival injection or intramuscularly or subcutaneously, depending on the drug. Long acting oxytetracyclines (Alamycin LA) is usually our drug of choice and a second dose administered at 48 to 72 hours later usually increases the number of cattle that respond to treatment.

Injecting into the subconjunctiva of the eye is a way of reducing the volume of antibiotics required to treat each animal however this is difficult to do properly so please get a vet to show you how before attempting it yourself.

Prevention

1. Fly control: Use sprays, pour-ons, or fly parasites throughout the fly season to achieve good results. Most pour-on fly products last 6-8 weeks so repeat treatments are required.



2. Hay and/or feed bunk management –avoid overhead hay feeders, spread hay out, do not feed hay containing mature seed heads in overhead feeders or in round bales, and increase bunk space to decrease direct contact

3. Disease management – provide proper immunization against viral diseases (IBR and BVD), isolate infected animals, and decrease environmental and nutritional stress

Please call the practice and speak to a vet if you are having issues and we can tailor our advice to your situation.



Vets Mobile Numbers

Dave Shaw	07836335185
Rob George	07773384450
John Manson	07813690860
John Yarwood	07814879109
Colin Baxter	07860605079
Stuart Russell	07770448179
Peter Duncalfe	07717780604
Laura Donovan	07800647608
Steven Crowe	07891843694
Liz Davies	07767447281
Mike Wilkinson	07866257014
Jake Lawson	07866257014
Amy Cox	07966833870
James Patterson	07774795700
Sarah Williamson	07812173942

Vet Technician

Jess Tonks	07921855043
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"@NantwichFarmVet"



Farms to visit this summer

Weston Discussion Group Farm Walk- Monday 5th June

J R Davenport and Sons. Top O' The Town farm, Sound, Nantwich are hosting this summer's Weston Discussion Group farm walk. The Davenport family decided after 2 years of significantly low milk price, that they needed to change something within their business and herd management for it to be sustainable long term. They are moving from all year round calving to an autumn (1st August to 5th November) block.

First breeding season saw just over 90% of the then, 350 eligible cows inseminated in the first 21 days and empty rate of that initial group is between 7 and 8%. All cows are grazed by day on 40 paddocks all off sleeper tracks. Open cows are separated automatically in the evening and housed. TB restrictions have prevented them from selling cows calving outside the desired window and hence carrying out the full swing over in the first year. More Challenges! The Davenport family's year 2 aim is to have 550 cows and heifers calving between 1st August and 5th November. This will be an extremely interesting walk and members and potential members all welcome.

Summer BBQ Evening Farm Walk – Friday 7th July

John and Sarah Allwood, Huntington Hall farm, Aldford Rd, Huntington, Chester CH3 6EA have kindly agreed to host an evening farm walk on Friday 7th July, 7pm start. The evening is sponsored by Nantwich Farm Vets, Genus plc and Hefin Richards (Profeed).

The herd has expanded from 300 to 700 cows over the last couple of years in which time the farm has developed a very impressive building set up concentrating on cow comfort, health and optimising productivity. The herd are milked through a rotary parlour three times a day. They are currently averaging 38L milk sold/cow/day. John has focused heavily on fertility to optimise milk production and maximise herd profitability. The dairy herd utilises Genus RMS (Reproductive Management Services) to aid in their fertility management. The herd's annual average Pregnancy Rate is currently running at 28% with an average heat detection rate of around 68%. John has recently installed the Genus "Breeder Tag System Xtra", with the feed fence technology in order to help fresh cow management and transition success as well as potentially increasing heat detection rate. We look forward to enjoying a beer and a burger with you all!