

nantwich farm vets



Crewe Road End
Nantwich
Cheshire
CW5 5SF

24hr phone line: 01270 610349

May 2017



Dates for your diary

**6th-8th
June**

DIY AI course

Contact Mike to book a place.

**Friday 7th
July**

**Farm Walk and Summer
BBQ Evening**

at Huntington Hall Farm,
Chester by kind permission
of John and Sarah Allwood

Grants NEWS

Up to £2,500 available from AHDB Dairy to attend Dairy Conferences

Grants available to attend the 2017 DIN conference-London, Alltech One 17- USA and Total Dairy Seminar- Keele. Deadline 5th May.

AHDB Beef & Lamb funding DIY AI courses

50 per cent funding available towards the cost of DIY Artificial Insemination (AI) courses to suckler producers with over 30 breeding females. Speak to Michael for more details.

Small dairy farmer scheme launched, deadline May 31st

Defra has launched the third part of its EU Exceptional Aid package, a small dairy farmer scheme for farmers in England. To be eligible for this funding you must have an annual cows' milk production of less than 1 million litres in the April 2015 – April 2016 milk year.



Free BVD testing for Bovela users

Bovela is the only one-dose BVD vaccine available proven to provide 12 months' protection against both type 1 and type 2 BVD. For Bovela users the company will fund £50 worth of testing to give you peace of mind that you have BVD under control. Please speak to any of the vets for more information.



Summer mastitis

This month, **Michael Wilkinson** looks towards the summer months and discusses summer mastitis and how you can prevent it from causing problems in your herd

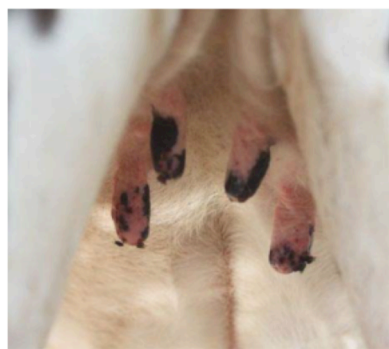
'Summer Mastitis', 'August Bag' or 'Fellen' if you come from Northern Ireland like half of us is a type mastitis I'm sure you are familiar with and something we hate to find.

Associated predominantly with the summer months due to the reliance on the sheep head fly (*Hydrotaea irritans*) it causes a severe toxic mastitis most often in maiden or in calf heifers and dry cows.



Clinical Signs include;

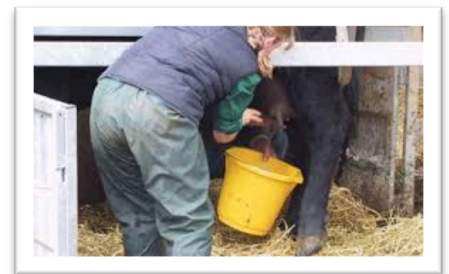
- Animals separated or lagging behind the main group.
- Slow and lethargic, often walking like they are stiff on their hind limbs.
- At least one swollen, hot and painful quarter which is often discharging and very attractive to flies.



Infected animals can become sick very quickly highlighting the importance of checking these groups daily throughout the summer months when grazing and if not treated soon enough, can be fatal. Infection almost

always leads to loss of the quarter so an outbreak in a group can be very costly to future production.

Heifer's calving down with blind quarters may have been infected previously but just presented with no clinical signs.



Treatment

The main causative bacteria *Trueperella Pyogenes* is sensitive to most broad spectrum antibiotics including penicillin's. However treatment should be focused on decreasing the toxic signs in the animal (similar to toxic mastitis in milking cows).

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Non-Steroidal Anti Inflammatory, fluids, frequent stripping of the infected quarter are all as important. The animal should also be segregated as flies can spread the infection to other animals in the group very quickly.

Treatment very rarely saves the infected quarter but reducing the severity is vital to save the animal, prevent abortion and stop the spread to other quarters.

'Prevention is better than cure' completely applies to summer mastitis. Everything to decrease fly numbers and them carrying bacteria to the teat and penetration of the teat end will be effective.



Effective Dry Cow Therapy: Treatment with long acting antibiotic tubes at drying off will go some way to preventing bacterial infection. Teat sealants will be most effective. When they are administered properly they will form a barrier in the teat duct which will last the entire dry period and prevent

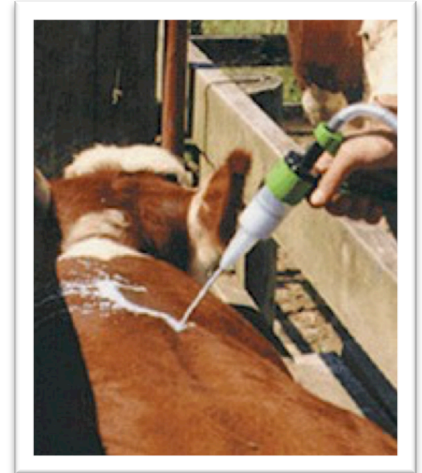
entry of infection. There is some evidence to suggest a benefit in sealing maiden heifers and is something Sarah experienced a lot whilst working in New Zealand. Over there vets and techs spend a lot of time before the risk period going from farm to farm teat sealing heifers. A sterile technique is vital and is something you should speak to us about before attempting.



Application of Stockholm Tar seems to be becoming less popular due to the labour involved and the smell that seems to stick with you for days but there is no doubting it's effectiveness if applied a couple of times per week. It can often be beneficial in an outbreak.

No doubt the best way to reduce disease is decreasing the number of nuisance flies which transmit it. Keeping heifers and dry cows in open fields away from trees and natural water courses can help but the most effective prevention is strategic use of topical fly treatments.

The first application MUST be early and if so will be very effective in decreasing fly numbers on the farm for the entire summer. Treatment will kill off early flies, preventing them from breeding and numbers should stay low throughout the summer.



If you find it is a job that tends to be put off or not get done in time remember our vet techs are available to help. They will bring everything they need and administer it by themselves if the facilities are available; while you milk for example. They will also keep a record of what animals were done and when to ensure future treatments are on time again to be effective.

For our prices on fly control treatments which should be competitive with anywhere or to book one of our techs to organise it for you give the office or Jess a call.



Vets Mobile Numbers

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Colin Baxter	07860605079
Stuart Russell	07770448179
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Laura Donovan	07800647608
Steven Crowe	07891843694
Liz Davies	07767447281
Mike Wilkinson	07866257014
Jake Lawson	07866257014
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Vet Technician

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"@NantwichFarmVet"



Research into Ischaemic teat necrosis- can you help?

Ischaemic teat necrosis (ITN) is a costly condition mainly affecting first-calving heifers. A pea-sized scab on one udder can spread across all four quarters within 12-24 hours.

While there have been studies into the disease, scientists are yet to find a cause and cure. Culling animals, often in early lactation, is the only option for a growing number of herds.

Worst-known culling levels have been as high as 25% of heifers on a 400-cow, robot-milked dairy for two consecutive years, although affected farms typically report one or two cases a year.

Most cases are seen in high-yielding Holstein-Friesians, but cases in 5,000-litre lactation herds, cross-bred and Jersey herds have been reported too.

First described in Vet Record by Gloucestershire vet Roger Blowey in 2004, the condition has since been shown to have global implications, with Mr Blowey at the time reporting a "considerable increase" in cases over the previous year.

Along with researchers at Liverpool University, Al Manning from the Royal Veterinary College is keen to hear from as many farmers as possible to share

accounts of ITN to help secure grants for research.

Farmers are urged to send in:

- Images of affected teats.
- Figures of cases and culls.
- Details about novel treatments and coping with the condition.
- Information about the system – bedding, milking intensity, parlour routine.

What to look out for

It usually starts with a dry, scabby lesion at the base of the teat, most commonly in heifers. It progresses down the teat and can spread to the udder tissue.

There is no formation of warts like in some other teat diseases. Ultimately, it is so painful that affected animals have been reported to chew their own teats off.

Affected herds usually have only a handful of cases and currently very little is known about the disease.

If you have any cases please send info to Al Manning at the RVC (amanning@rvc.ac.uk)