

Footvax Availability

We have been informed by MSD that unfortunately there will not be a supply of Footvax until Christmas/the New Year.

Worms in Lambs

Due to the rain and flush in grass combined with warm weather for this time of year there has been a subsequent massive increase in larvae and worm burdens at pasture and we have seen this in faecal egg counts and unfortunately dead/dying lambs.

Please have a check over your lambs' body condition score and faecal consistency and drop us in a sample.

Housing Cattle Preparation

With housing approaching it will be a convenient time to have a sort out and get any jobs done that have been neglected while at grass.

Minerals

Although mineral blocks and licks are very convenient studies have shown that intakes between cattle are extremely variable with some animals consuming nothing and others consuming excessive quantities due to palatability differences. Another important point to consider is the dangers of attraction of lick buckets to badgers. Oral drenches are cheap options however the body is unable to store trace elements such as cobalt and iodine. For this reason we generally consider boluses to be the best option for the majority of our farms.

Any issues can be detected by blood sampling a few (approximately five cows and calves) to determine whichever product will have the best impact.

Lameness

Any overgrowth or other issues will only become worse when housed so cattle should be inspected now to see if corrections need to be made.

Worms/Fluke

Housing is a perfect time to worm to "clear out" animals of worms they have picked up whilst at grass. While it may seem like a good idea to use a combination product at housing to kill fluke and worms, fluke products have no persistence and you need to wait a number of weeks after housing before treating for fluke to ensure that it removes all of the life stages. As an example Closamectin pour on is a product we see being used frequently. The flukacide in this product will only kill fluke from 7 weeks of age. Therefore any fluke picked up just before housing will not be killed on that day. From a money saving point of view - the flukacide part is many more times expensive than the wormer therefore a cheaper wormer only product at housing time is a much better option. It is best to wait until seven weeks after housing and then treat again seven weeks later. While triclabendazole products will treat most stages of fluke it is one of the only products left - this product should be strictly left to treat cases of adult fluke especially in sheep because of the widespread resistance we are seeing.

In cattle we recommend a clear wormer at housing time due to its ability to kill dormant stages of Ostertagia - a stomach worm which is often reactivated in late housing and can cause serious clinical signs and death.

TBAS reminder

The TB advisory service offers free visits to discuss TB risk on farm, and offers four simple cost effective, practical recommendations based on the risks identified.

The TB Advisory Service has been running for 4 years, funded by the rural development program for England (RDPE) 98% of Farmers that had a free farm visit said the recommendations at the end were useful and 90% rated the service as excellent.

Defra is now funding the TB Advisory Service for the whole of England, this new funding also allows those farming other TB susceptible species (camelids, deer, goats, pigs and sheep) to have visits not just cattle keepers.

The top 5 recommendations include using badger proof water and feed troughs, fencing off badger setts from cattle, using the website www.ibTB.co.uk to look up a seller's TB history prior to purchase and putting up wildlife cameras to identify any badger activity in the farm yard and where to prioritise badger proofing measures.

Acorn Poisoning

Acorns are one of the most common causes of plant poisoning in the UK especially in the late summer and autumn. We have seen a number of suspected cases over the past two weeks in both cattle and sheep.

Signs of acorn poisoning: • Off colour and poor appetite • Straining to pass faeces and urinate • Constipation at first, then black watery diarrhoea • Weakness, collapse and death • Sudden death can occur, but poisoning usually occurs over a period of a few days.

Generally, acorn poisoning only affects one or a few cattle in a group, as cattle need to eat large amounts of acorns to be poisoned. The poisonous compound in acorns concentrates in the milk of suckler cows so fast growing calves on milky dams may be the first in the group to show signs. Acorn poisoning is usually diagnosed based on suspicion of these signs, and we sometimes can also find evidence of acorn consumption in the animal's stomach on post mortem exam. Blood or urine samples on live animals may be useful to rule out other diseases and increase suspicion of acorn poisoning. There is no specific treatment for acorn poisoning, but most cattle will recover if promptly removed from fields with acorns as soon as they show signs of poisoning. Supportive therapy, such as pumping with fluids can help to reduce the severity of the disease. In more severe cases euthanasia may be necessary. The best way to protect stock from acorn poisoning is to be aware of the risks and try and avoid exposure of cattle to acorns. This can be by fencing off the area around oak trees or by not grazing fields with a large numbers of acorns present.

Avian Flu Update

Unfortunately, once again mandatory housing measures have been brought in for all poultry in England and in addition to housing/netting birds, all keepers must keep a close watch for signs of disease and maintain good biosecurity at all times. If you have any concerns about the health of your birds, seek prompt advice from us.

For further information please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/avian-influenza-housing-order-to-be-introduced-across-england> or contact us with any queries you may have.

Follow us on Instagram @norcalvets



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Very cute caesarean calf delivered by Becca this week!

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