

Sheep Abortion Vaccinations



Even though lambing may have only finished a few months ago, now is the time to start preparing for next year.

If you routinely inject oxytetracycline 4-6 weeks before lambing to control Enzootic abortion (EAE), had a lower than expected lambing

percentage at scanning or had abortions confirmed to be caused by either Toxoplasmosis or EAE, then you should strongly consider testing your ewes prior to a vaccination programme this summer.



EAE vaccine (Chlamydia by CEVA) can be administered at the same time as Toxovac. Ewes need to be at least five months of age, but vaccinated at least four weeks before tupping.

Priority of vaccination should be given to bought-in replacement animals and ewe lambs intended to be bred, as these are the most naive animals and incidences of abortions are generally higher in these groups. Ewes which have aborted due to toxoplasma this year will be immune to it the following year, however, this is not the same for EAE. EAE aborted animals may abort again the following year and will have acted as a source of infection to their cohorts in the flock. These animals should be not be bred from and removed from the flock. EAE vaccination will help reduce the incidence of abortion in sheep exposed to aborted material, but a proportion can still go on to abort.

Before ordering your vaccine, please discuss with one of the vets the best protocol for your farm.

David



Toxoplasma vaccine (Toxovac by MSD) has a short shelf life and needs to be ordered specifically for the week you intend to vaccinate your flock. Ewes need to be vaccinated at least three weeks before tupping.



HEATSTRESS

It is typical of the great British weather that as I go abroad for my holiday, the temperatures soars over here, equalling or bettering what I experienced if only for a couple of days. The problems this causes to our food producing animals is becoming more and more recognised, with the welfare issues it raises.

With harvesting not far off now, and the ideal conditions needed for this, dry and hot, then perhaps it is a good time to consider this topic.

Heat stress is caused when animals experience high air temperatures, and are unable to cool down enough to maintain a healthy body temperature. The net effect of this is to cause an increase in body temperature, panting, reduced appetite, lethargy and in extreme cases can result in death. Across species, there are different ways that the animal tries to regulate its own body temperature, and so it is best to consider cattle, sheep and pigs separately. The important thing we are finding now is that the relative humidity of the atmosphere will have a significant effect on the critical temperature that animals can suffer heat stress, and temperatures above 21°C(70°F) can severely embarrass cattle, even more so in high humidity (where this temperature can be lowered). So even in our climate, heat stress can be a significant problem.

CATTLE:

Cows keep cool by allowing moisture to evaporate from their skin and lungs, sweating and panting, which releases heat into the atmosphere. When humidity is high, this method of heat control is less effective, and in this country with humidity levels of 70-90%, (higher in poorly ventilated buildings), the cow will find it more and more difficult to regulate her own body temperature.

The effects

Reduced appetite, DMI, as the cow tries to reduce the amount of metabolic heat produced, with a preference for cereal and protein over forage. Cows are more likely to stand with the potential implications on rumination and increased stresses on the feet, and subsequent lameness problems. There may be crowding around water troughs, salivation and excessive panting.

This can directly impact on milk yield, mainly from reduced food intake and reduced energy intake. The effect of this can be prolonged through the whole lactation. Milk quality will also be

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BANK HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Office will be closed on Monday 31st August 2015. Two on call vets will be available throughout the day for emergency treatment as usual.

COMMUNITY SHOWS

We will be supporting the Minsterley Show on 8th August we all look forward to seeing you there, please drop by and enjoy a chat and a drink with us.

PRACTICE/DISPENSARY TIMES

Monday – Friday	8:15 – 17.30
Saturday/Sunday	Closed

SHREWSBURY LIVESTOCK MARKET

Every Tuesday From 9.30am – 12 Noon
Please order the medications that you require for collection before 4pm the previous day.

MINSTERLEY SHOW

New Class for Minsterley Show

Neil Manning has brought it to our attention that there is a new dairy class at the Minsterley show this year on August 8th. This is for best British Friesian, cross-bred dairy animal or any commercial dairy animal. Another words, if you have a nice looking dairy animal of any breeding that doesn't fit under the other classes then get it entered and make a successful launch for this new class.

Its sure to spark a lot of debate as to what constitutes "best" and make showing that little bit more accessible. We are looking forward to seeing the entries, and welcome you to join us for a drink and a bite to eat on the day.

To register your interest in showing this year, please contact Neil Manning, or Sue Reynolds, the Show Secretary, on:

07815 129 416

James

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From front page



affected with a lowering of milk fat and protein. Feed sorting can result in acidosis.

Oestrus expression is reduced and embryonic mortality can rise. As little as a 0.5°C rise in Uterine temperature a day after service can reduce conception by 7%. And there can be effects from mineral loss from excessive sweating as well. All in all, serious effects on the welfare of the cow.

So what can we do to help. Obviously provide shade for cattle outside, (though not forgetting the risks of flies, summer mastitis, etc. Another effect will be a negative effect on the cow's immune system). Ventilation systems will have an important part to play in housed cattle, letting in as much fresh air as possible and being able to expel expired air with its increased humidity. One needs to check that forced ventilation is in fact moving all air in a building, not just small selected areas. Cattle will be more inclined to eat at night when it is cooler, so the adequate provision of food then is important, and of course a constant water supply. Some people have tried fogging systems to allow better heat exchange. Reduced stocking density will help, allowing more airflow between cattle.

One mustn't forget calves at the other extreme of temperatures where draughts will make them more vulnerable to chilling and the risks of pneumonia.

A term that may become more widely used will be the Temp-Humidity Index, THI, as an indicator of the risks of heat stress and ventilation systems.

SHEEP:

Strangely enough that nice woolly fleece they have acts as a great insulating coat for them, and so shearing can make them more vulnerable to heat stress. But other factors that can effect them are housing, especially when overcrowded, gathering and moving sheep, transport in lorries (again especially if stocking rate is high).

The impact on their health is similar to that of cattle, and so management should be adapted to the possible causes. Again, the provision of shade (but again, the risks of flies, and fly strike), plenty of clean water, reducing the amount of handling to a minimum in the heat of the day. In sheep buildings, ensure that the ventilation can cope with all conditions.

Make sure rams are shorn when working, so as to reduce the effects of excessive heat when active, and consider housing them when in the hottest part of the day.

PIGS:

Our species least able to cope with excessive heat as they are without an efficient method of heat exchange. Also vulnerable to sunburn if kept outdoors, the effects of heat can be extreme and potentially lethal.

Again there will be a reduction in feed intake and water consumption is also important with potential effects on the nervous system. A lot of housing systems do have some forms of environmental control, fan systems to assist in air exchange and heat reduction which puts this group at less risk. The outdoor pig can be very vulnerable though, either from lying outside or in pig houses which can get very hot as the sun beats down on corrugated iron roofs.

The provision of wollows becomes essential here to enable the pig to be able to try and cool herself down, adequate water supplies, checking they are working constantly.

HEAT is a danger to all our production animals, and watching their behaviour will tell us a lot as to whether their health is being compromised. Obviously if we know these extremes of temperature are about to come, we have to adapt our management to fit in with the requirements of the animals we tend.

Rod

LUNGWORM

What is it?

Dictyoculus viviparus (lungworm) is a cattle parasite which infects the respiratory tract. It is a widespread parasite which is most commonly found in wet, western areas of the UK. Infection leads to parasitic bronchitis (husk) which can be a severe illness and in some cases may be fatal. It is usually a problem in first-year grazing cattle in late summer and autumn, particularly autumn born suckler calves. Losses in growing cattle can average £50-£100 / day.

Clinical signs:

The first sign of the disease is usually intermittent coughing throughout the youngstock. Once the infection has reached the second or third week then a large proportion of the group will be coughing. Signs of disease can vary in severity within the group.

Mild – intermittent coughing, especially when exercised

Moderate – frequent bouts of coughing at rest, increased and laboured breathing

Severe – increased respiratory rate and difficulty breathing. Often stretch out their head and neck and breathe with their mouths open and stick out their tongue when coughing. They will have a harsh cough, increased saliva production and loss of appetite.

Most animals will gradually recover but it can take weeks or months before they are back to normal. Approximately a quarter of severely affected animals that are in recovery will suddenly develop severe respiratory signs, deteriorate and die within 4 days. The cause of this is unknown but it may be connected to the inhalation of dead or dying worm material. There is also a chance of a secondary bacterial infection due to the lung damage caused by the worms, which can cause pneumonia.

Treatment

Currently all wormers are effective against developing 4th stage larvae and adult lungworm. There have been no reported incidences of resistance. Once lungworm is suspected then cattle should be treated as soon as possible to prevent severe disease and decrease the risk of death. After treatment it is important to move the animals onto a 'clean' pasture if possible. Any severely affected animals should be monitored closely and given an anti-inflammatory and antibiotics if appropriate.

Cattle that have only had a mild infection will need longer term protection as they will not have developed immunity to the disease. Macrocytic Lactones (ML) have a residual effect on lungworm and can provide protection against re-infection. Please discuss your treatment options with one of us so that we can find a solution which is best suited to your farm. If animals are not fully exposed to lungworm during their first grazing season they will not build up the immunity required to prevent

disease in their 2nd season. It is therefore important to monitor these animals closely for any signs of disease.

Control

Lungworm is very unpredictable and so using a clean grazing strategy is not an option. If you have a history of lungworm in your animals then the best form of prevention is vaccination of the first-year calves. Young cattle need two doses of the oral vaccine at an interval of 4 weeks, they must be at least 8 weeks old when the course is started. The animals must be protected from the challenge of lungworm for at least 2 weeks after the second dose so that they have time to build up immunity.

Some wormers will inhibit the build-up of immunity after vaccination so it is important not to vaccinate after dosing with wormers, and avoid worming until 14 days after the 2nd dose of vaccine. The vaccine will prevent clinical disease, however, there will still be a small amount of lungworm development and the pasture will remain contaminated. It is therefore important to vaccinate all calves that are due to be turned out throughout the spring and summer.

Vaccination should not be used if you have a low incidence of lungworm on your holding. The best option is to try and keep lungworm levels low by enforcing a strict quarantine policy.

For further information visit www.cattleparasites.org.uk or speak to one of the vets.

Top Tips for Lungworm Control

- Young cattle are most at risk as they have not been previously exposed
- Be suspicious of lungworm if there is coughing in grazing cattle
- Animals that have been exposed to lungworm usually develop resistance to re-infection
- Quarantine and treat all bought in cattle
- Routine vaccination is necessary for all calves in herds where lungworm is a problem
- Do not vaccinate if there is a low incidence of lungworm
- Anthelmintics can be used strategically to control lungworm
- The prognosis will vary according to the severity of the disease
- Additional treatment may be required in severe cases
- Work out a control strategy as part of your herd health plan to minimise losses

Ally