

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2010



Dear Client,

Lameness

At the beginning of last month we organised a workshop on cattle lameness at Bromfield Farms. Roger Blowey a leading vet expert on the subject delivered an excellent overview of the present situation. Some key points are that solar ulcers are the result of changes in the foot around calving along with excess standing.

You must:-

1. Minimise standing times at milking and feeding
2. Encourage lying down with better cubicle comfort and bedding (1kg sawdust on mats)
3. Give attention to concrete flooring, walkways and consider rubber matting

The foot of the lame cow needs lifted and examined within 48hours. He is a great believer in blocks and bandaged sores with a mastitis tube for 48hrs.

He pointed out that digital dermatitis is an ever increasing problem advising once daily 365 days a year foot bathing in disinfectant rather than monthly antibiotic baths. Digital dermatitis is responsible for poor response to chronic foot lesions e.g. ulcers, toe and wall abscesses and daily foot bathing will help resolve these.

Finally the site (behind the ear) to inject a cow with Naxcel – the new long-acting antibiotic giving seven days treatment with no milk withdrawal was demonstrated.

We would like to thank the Armstrongs' for hosting it so generously.

Tuberculosis

Hot Spot Testing

We have completed the second year of hot spot testing and herds should revert to the current Parish Testing Interval:- (PTI) which is:-

08/041 Allonby – 4 years

08/208 Maryport – 4 years

08/045 Holme St Cuthbert – 2 years

If Defra have sent you a letter with a different PTI to the above please contact Preston office and query it.

Staff

Laura left us in May for small animal practice in Carlisle and David Steel has returned after a year in Longtown. Mica sets off for her African trek in aid of the Blue Cross charity very soon.

Drugs

Metacam

A large study of mastitis, in New Zealand showed that the routine use of the non steroidal anti-inflammatory Metacam plus antibiotics (NEW cases only) significantly reduced the overall culling rate of cows compared to antibiotics alone. Metacam is a long acting drug similar to Finadyne but lasts three days – 15ml subcutaneously..