

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009



Dear Client,

Fluke

A legacy of the dreadful summer weather is that not only do we have poor quality feed but fluke is being diagnosed on farms that have not had the problem before - both in sheep and cattle.

The classical symptoms of scour and bottle jaw occur rarely and only with heavy burdens. The more common signs are vague, weight loss, reduced milk quantity and quality. They are also more susceptible to other diseases like salmonella and metritis post calving.

Diagnosis:

- Dairy Cattle - bulk milk sample is very good and reliable.
- Beef Cattle - six blood samples are best as dung samples from six individual cows are less sensitive.
- Sheep - Dung samples from six sheep.

Treatment:

The choice of product depends on the time of year. In autumn / early winter you must use a product which kills immature and adult fluke. From January onwards a product which kills adults only is okay.

Only products containing Albendazole can be used in lactating cows so most Dairy cows are treated at drying off.

Eprinex has **no** effect on fluke, it is purely for worms.

Blue Tongue

Despite there being no outbreaks last summer the import of cases has continued both of BT8 and now BT1 virus.

The risk of a full blown outbreak in 2009 is very great and vaccination is essential.

Only BT8 is available at the moment and we think that rather than delay in the hope of a combined BT1 and BT8 vaccine you should vaccinate in January, February or March. This leaves April for the routine BVD / Leptospira / Hoose vaccination.

The vaccines will give twelve months cover.

- Vaccinate all animals over three month old.
- All sheep get one dose.
- All cattle two doses either three / four weeks apart (depending on which vaccine is available).

You must use the same vaccine for the initial two doses but can boost in twelve months with any.

DIY AI Training Course

Places are still available on the next DIY AI training course which starts on Monday 19th January. Anyone interested should contact the practice.