

# NEWSLETTER JULY 2012



Dear Client,

## DRY COW THERAPY

A good dry cow therapy regime should aim to achieve all of the following:

### 1. Eliminate existing infections

- Drying off is often the best chance you will get to cure difficult chronic infections eg *Staph aureus*.
- Cows with known infections and those with chronic high SCC's can be treated with antibiotic injections at drying off for better cures.
- Treatment can be much more effective than during lactation.

### 2. Prevent new infections

- There are two peak times for picking up new infections - **drying off** and **calving**.
- Aim to have antibiotic dry cow tubes that cover **BOTH** of these times.  
How long are you keeping your cows dry? How long are your tubes lasting?  
Do you have accurate dates to dry off cows?
- Consider using Orbeseal as well – **Teat sealants provide a better barrier to environmental infection**.
- Provide a **clean environment** for dry cows and newly calved cows to reduce exposure to infection.  
Bed/scrape daily; Keep stocking density low; Don't house sick cows with newly calved cows

### 3. Control summer mastitis

- 80% of cases occur over four weeks after drying off. How long are your tubes lasting?
- Remember fly control.

#### IN SUMMARY

- **ANTIBIOTIC DRY COW TUBES** – all four quarters, all cows (including 1<sup>st</sup> lactation heifers)
- **HYGIENE** - don't dry off during milking, wear gloves, **clean & disinfect teats thoroughly**
- **TEAT SEALANTS** - getting mastitis in 1<sup>st</sup> 60 days of lactation? – consider Orbeseal
- **ENVIRONMENT** - A **clean and dry environment** will reduce exposure to infection.

**SPEAK TO ONE OF THE VETS TO DISCUSS DRY COW THERAPY IN YOUR HERD**

#### Farm Discount Scheme

Our pricing structure for dry cow tubes has changed with significant decrease in price so long as your account is settled monthly.

#### Sheep Vaccine

Cevac Chlamydia vaccine is in stock

Toxovax vaccine must be ordered in advance.

It is important that both vaccines are administered at least two weeks before tupping and provided they are given at different sites can be done on the same day

#### New Arrivals

We have a new vet starting in July. Neil Warnock, a farmer's son from Biggar who has recently qualified from Edinburgh University.

Congratulations to Richard and Lois with the safe arrival of their baby daughter 'Erin'.

