

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2012



Dear Client,

FLUKE

Wigton has already had the first reported outbreak in 2012 of acute fluke in lambs in England and Wales.

The two wet summers of 2011 and 2012 put us in the highest risk band for fluke. Further bulk milk testing over the past five years has found fluke on every farm sampled but one.



Sheep

The disease is more severe in sheep than cattle and the symptoms in September to January are acute, with death, severe weight loss, weakness usually seen in lambs but less commonly in ewes as well. From December onward the chronic form of the disease is weight loss, scour, anaemia and 'bottle jaw'.

Treatment

The control is by dosing but careful selection of the drug is essential. Only TRICLABENDAZOLE is effective against all stages of the parasite including the early immature fluke which are doing the real damage to the liver.

On high risk farms the September dose of Triclabendazole is repeated 4 – 6 weeks later.

Unfortunately the UK is starting to see flocks that are resistant to this drug and if you suspect this you need to speak to us.

Cattle

The disease in cattle tends to be chronic often with little outward signs bar failure to thrive or slightly lowered milk yields. The classic symptoms of bottle jaw and scour are only seen occasionally.

Treatment

The regime for beef cattle usually is a single annual dose one month after housing with any fluke drug. The outwinter herd will dose in the late autumn and repeat this in the spring.

The treatment for dairy cattle is complicated by the withdrawal time for milk. Only the white drenches (e.g. Albex) can be used while the cow is milking with a 72 hour milk withhold. All the others can only be use at the drying off and they have up to a 60 day milk withdrawal. It is essential that every farm in the Wigton area treats once a year for fluke.

We enclose an invite for a discussion on FLUKE at Smith's Hotel, Gretna Green 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th October.

PNEUMONIA

The late autumn is traditionally the most serious time for calves and stirks.

Two doses of Rispoval 4 three weeks apart are needed before the cattle are protected so if you have not yet started – don't delay vaccinate today!

The Surecalf scheme involving the use of Rispoval 4 has been taken up by the Cumbria Auction Companies for both Autumn and Spring Sales.

In association with:



STAFF CHANGES

Iain leaves us for one year to work with New Zealand cattle and travel. His place is taken by Caroline who is qualified four years having worked in Hertfordshire and moved to Ireby this summer.

One of our nurses, Sue, is moving to Manchester. We will miss her and wish her well.