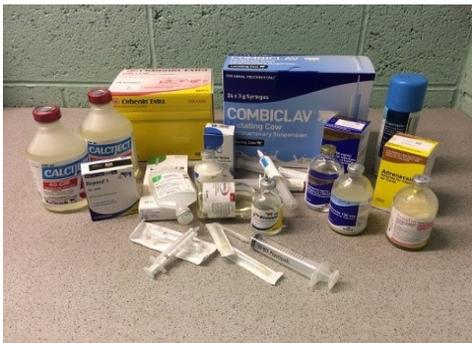


FARMER TRAINING

We ran another course on the Safe and Responsible Use of Medicines on **Wednesday 1st August** at the Stocksman.



SAFE & RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES

Red Tractor Farm Assurance now recommends that farmers have undertaken formal training in medicine use.

This one day course will focus on safe handling, storage and responsible use of medicines on farms.

Please contact the practice for further information about the next course.

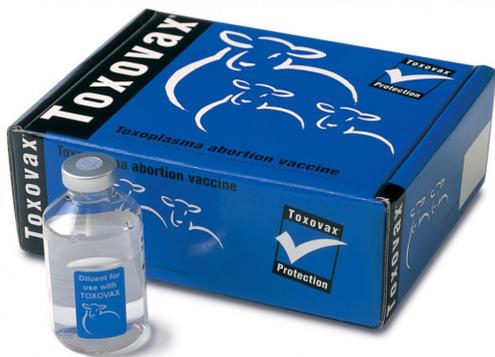
TOXOVAX

As you are all aware, Toxovax comes with an extremely short shelf life, which can make life difficult for the user.

But it also makes it difficult for MSD, the manufacturer. Each bottle is produced to order and MSD are finding that the ever increasing demand during the months of September and October is really stretching their manufacturing capacity.

MSD are keen to reduce this pressure by offering a **5% discount for orders placed in August.**

We realise that this may not be too practical or realistic for many farmers in this area, but the offer is there nevertheless. If you want to take advantage of this offer please contact the practice.



LOCAL and INDEPENDENT since 1919

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BELLE VUE VETS AUGUST 2018



CRITICALLY IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTICS

The issues of antibiotic resistance and pressure from government to reduce their use has meant that there are now some restrictions on the type of antibiotic which can be prescribed.

Under the Red Tractor Schemes, which most of you will be signed up with through your dairy company or for beef and lamb production, you are no longer able to use certain medicines without some proof that they are required.

A veterinary diagnosis and sensitivity testing (by sending samples to the lab) are required to prove that they work and no other drug is effective.

The drugs which you may have been using include; **Cevaxel, Naxcel, Cephaguard DC, Cobactan MC** and injection, **Excenel** and **Marbox**

These drugs will no longer be dispensed without a veterinary examination and testing.



Red Tractor
Farm Assurance

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Syke Park, Syke Road, Wigton. Cumbria. CA7 9NE



Calf Health Monitoring

Dairy Calf Health Monitoring

Your replacement heifers are the future of the farm. A lot of time, effort and expenditure has gone into breeding these animals. Yet in a survey carried out in Wales:

- 7% of all live born calves died before they were 3 months old
- 48% of heifer calves received insufficient colostrum
- 20% of all calves were treated for pneumonia
- 23% of all calves were treated for scour

Does this sound like a familiar story??

Our Dairy Calf Monitoring Scheme aims to identify the bottlenecks within your heifer rearing system and to help you address any perceived problems that may be limiting your heifers growth and performance. Through monthly monitoring we can then see how your calves are progressing.

What's involved?

- An initial calf health visit to assess levels of disease on farm, colostrum management, feeding protocols, environmental issues.....
- Monthly weight checks of calves to monitor growth rates through the pre-weaning period (0 - 12wks old) carried out by our nurses Leigh and Lynda
- Monthly blood samples of calves in their first week of life to monitor colostrum absorption
- Recording of pneumonia and scour given access to treatment records
- 4 monthly meetings to benchmark your performance against other participating farms and discuss the major issues participants are encountering

The Dairy Calf Monitoring Scheme will cost £45 / month, and will provide a good opportunity to regularly review calf health, hopefully improving the health, welfare and productivity of your replacement heifers. This price will not include any further diagnostic tests that may be discussed at these visits.

FARM DISCOUNT SCHEME

Bills that are paid before the end of the month attract excellent discounts on a range of drugs and vaccines

Cattle Consequences of Cumbrian Heat Wave

The warm weather has been enjoyable for most however; it can increase the risk of some diseases of cattle, which are certainly worth bearing in mind this August...



Nitrate/Nitrite Poisoning

Cows convert nitrates to the more poisonous nitrite in their stomachs.

Nitrates accumulate in the soil during periods of drought and are taken up by plants in large amounts when the drought ends. These grasses/plants are then eaten by the grazing cattle. While ingestion of large amounts of nitrates can cause gastroenteritis, the main importance of nitrates is as a source of nitrites, which are formed in the cows' stomach after it has eaten the plant.

These nitrites then bind with the cow's blood to stop it transporting oxygen around the body. Therefore the cow may present gasping, struggling to breath, twitching muscles and weakness. In severe cases the gums and vulva of cattle can turn brown in colour and eventually, before death, go blue.

Death from eating nitrate-rich plants can be within a few hours. However, it is more usual for a few days to pass before signs of poisoning appear. Diagnosis by the vet is usually done based on the grazing history, clinical signs and post mortem findings. Blood samples from affected animals are chocolate-coloured and opaque.

Heat Stress

Cattle begin to struggle over temperatures of 25°C. The cow's stomach is its main heat source so to reduce its temperature it will eat less and pant more. The consequence of these reduced intakes will subsequently mean a drop in yield and fertility.

Ensure sheds are not overcrowded and water supplies are fresh and readily available to all stock 24/7. These are simple but highly effective measures and will reduce the problems associated with heat stress. If you wouldn't drink from the trough, why should the cow?!

The weather this month has been perfect for potential nitrate/nitrite poisoning and heat stress. If you have any concerns, don't hesitate to call us at Belle Vue Vets.