



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Customer

Practice News

The welcome rains brought misery for those trying to get harvest finished and straw in, but has been welcome by those whose maize struggled earlier this summer and to diminishing grass.

The Autumn flush has now started and I have recently seen an interesting case of Fog Fever which is characterised by sudden onset, minimal coughing, and a course that terminates fatally or results in dramatic improvement within a few days. This case involved a farmer turning suckler cows and calves on to lush silage aftermath and 5 to 10 days later one cow died suddenly, several others had raised respiratory rates and a further two cows died the following day. Onset of Fog Fever can be minimised by:

- giving hay for a few days prior to moving on to lush pasture
- introduce cows to pasture gradually
- strip grazing
- introduce stock on to pastures before they become lush
- graze lush pasture first by less susceptible stock first ie <15months or sheep

Jono has seen a few cases of Cerebral Cortical Necrosis (CCN). Incidence is generally higher in cattle and sheep feedlots, but also occurs in the pastured animal. The most vulnerable are young fast growing animals although we do see cases in adult sheep and this year I did see a case in a three year old Limousin pregnant heifer.

Clinical signs can be acute with animals found recumbent and paddling, blind, eyes moving back and forth, or could be more progressive with animals first losing weight, staggering, may be excitable, drooling and reduced vision.

Treatment should be first to call the vet, for the administration of large doses of Combivit (thiamine) intravenously, followed by



intramuscular doses twice daily. Some cases respond well while others never respond to treatment depending on the severity of clinical signs. I find those that are recumbent to be unsuccessful. We have seen outbreaks following animals turned onto heavily fertilised ground due to the sulphur aspect of modern fertilisers.

Sheep Worm Egg Count Important

Recent rain has awakened dormant worm eggs on pasture. Beware of mass weight loss, scouring and later fly strike on lambs and ewes on heavily grazed pastures. Taking worm egg counts will give an idea if worms are causing a problem. Anthelmintics resistance is widespread so a post-treatment check could be worthwhile - please ask Jono or myself about a worm reduction test. Remember Zolvix - the new orange drench - is licensed for a mid-Summer drench in lambs and quarantine dosing.



Join Us for a Drink: Thursday 15th September

Jono, John and I are taking Jenna, Dawn and the H&C Pearce shop staff out for dinner and then on into Thame for a few drinks.

After dinner, and as a **Thank You** for your continued support, I would like to invite you to join us for a few drinks at The Thatch, OX9 2AA from 8:30pm.

See you there!

Evan and the NorCal Team

FACT SHEET
CALF PNEUMONIA

Calf Pneumonia

Calf Pneumonia is estimated to cost the UK cattle industry £60 million annually. Some financial losses come from mortality and veterinary fees but the majority is due to lack of weight gain which can affect a large proportion of the group.

Disease can be best prevented by:

- good management
- appropriate building design to ensure adequate ventilation; and
- effective vaccination against the major respiratory pathogens

Respiratory disease in calves is an interaction between the environment, the immunity of the calf and the various infectious agents involved.

The most important agents are Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Mannheimia Haemolytica, Pasteurella Multocida, Haemophilus Somni and Parainfluenza-3 Virus.



PREVENTION OF RESPIRATORY DISEASE

This is best achieved on 3 fronts:-

1. Good Building Design

Air should enter at the eaves and exit at the ridge. The ridge opening should be 300mm minimum, with a cap at least 150mm above. There should be a minimum of 6 air changes per hour on a still day.

2. Good Management and Husbandry

Keep stocking density low: Allow 10cubic metres per 90kg calf.

Avoid stress when recently housed eg disbudding or dehorning.

Do not mix animals of different ages or from different sources in the *same* building.

3. Effective Vaccination

Know the diseases that are commonly seen on the unit and vaccinate *before* they are a problem.

KEY POINTS:-

1. Respiratory disease is most commonly seen within 4 weeks of housing in Autumn or early Winter
2. Accurate diagnosis of which organism is causing the problem allows for better treatment and better future prevention
3. Not all affected animals will show obvious signs. Take rectal temperatures for a more accurate idea of which animals to treat
4. Disease will spread quicker and be more severe where animals are too densely stocked
5. Vaccination is very cheap compared to the costs of the disease
6. **TREAT EARLY!!!!!!!**
If greater than 5% of animals are showing signs of pneumonia ie

- **temp > 39.0C**
- **nasal discharge**
- **increased respiratory rates**
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TREAT the whole group.

Antibiotic Choices for Pneumonia

Drug	Dose (based on 50kg calf)	Cost/ Treatment 50kg	Claimed Duration of Action	Comment
Zactran	2ml (1ml/25kg sc)	£2.82	Up to 15 days	Has the longest duration of action. Only has to be given once which decrease labour, handling and calf stress
Draxxin	1.3ml (1ml/40kg sc)	£3.34	Between 9 and 15 days	Good syringability. Like Zactran only needs to be given once
Florgane	5ml (1ml/10kg sc)	£1.50	5 days	Good to give in contact calves as prevention.
Resflor 250ml	6.7ml (2ml/15kg sc)	£3.54	5 days	Contains anti-inflammatory which has pain relief and anti-pyrexia
Hexasol LA	5ml (1ml/10kg im)	£1.75	5-6 days	Contains anti-inflammatory
Advocin 180	1.51ml (1ml/30kg sc or im)	£2.04	2 days	Good to use on heavier animals close to being fit because only has 8 day meat with-hold

SPECIAL OFFERS SEPTEMBER 2011:

Draxxin BUY 4: GET 1 FREE
Zactran BUY 4: GET 1 FREE

Meloxidyl BUY 3: GET 1 FREE
(Anti-inflammatory great to use in combination with antibiotics for the treatment of pneumonia)
2.5ml/100kg iv or sc £72.05

Florgane 100ml @ £30.00
New Antibiotic which is equivalent to Nuflor but a better dose rate 1ml/10kg

Contact:

Evan 07725 039093 or
Jono 07889 701340 for more details