

Dear Farmer,

Welcome to our April edition of our farm newsletter. As always if there are any topics you would like to see in the newsletters please let us know.

TUBERCULIN TESTING UPDATE

Our vets have all recently been successful in completing compulsory re-training to be able to continue to provide clients with a bovine tuberculin testing service. Our vets are now required to undertake this re-training every 2 years at an extra expense to the practice. Cut-backs on payments for tuberculin tests and continued added expenses have made it become more and more vital that farmers need to be organised and well prepared for their TB tests in order for us to carry on providing this service. We would like to thank all our clients who are well prepared for their TB Tests and present their animals, with the correct identification, in an efficient and safe manner. This really does make a difference.

Unrestricted herds' annual testing generally takes place at the same time each year. Book early to arrange a convenient testing date.

As soon you receive notification from APHA of a due TB Test contact us to get it booked in. This allows us to get the animals tested within the required time frame.

**We are currently booking tests into the Autumn.
We have very limited availability for May, with no
availability for TB tests in April.**

To book a TB Test please contact Debbie on 01647 440441 or email moorgatetb@btconnect.com

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BVA COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to one of our partners, Ashley, who was lucky enough to win 6 months free use of a Subaru Outback! This month (as payment for the car) Ashley will be spending a day with Subaru and the BVA to generate a press release. We are hoping one of our lovely clients will allow Ashley and his crew to use their farm as a location for some "veterinary" action shots.

SUBSIDISED TESTING FOR ENZOOTIC ABORTION OF EWES

Following on from our last newsletter from 1st March to 20th September 2017 Ceva are running a programme that offers subsidised Chlamydoiphila blood testing to all flocks of 50 or more breeding ewes. In the absence of a solid vaccination programme there is always a risk that Enzootic Abortion of ewes can enter your flock. Assure Ewe allows you to monitor and prevent Enzootic Abortion in your flock whether you've experienced abortion or not.

Contact us today if you would like to enroll onto the Assure Ewe programme. We will then arrange a convenient time to come and blood sample 6 ewes that should all be within 3 months of lambing, these ewes could have either aborted themselves or been in contact with other aborted ewes. Full laboratory costs will be covered by the programme. Our fees are payable.

Remember having an abortion-free flock this year does not mean that you won't experience abortions next year or in future years. Vaccinate your flock (or replacements at the very least) before abortion storms happen!

Don't forget.....

- Vaccinate lambs to prevent Pasteurella and Clostridial Disease
- Check the NADIS website for the disease forecast. If the risk of Nematodirus is high you may need to worm
- Consider lung worm vaccination for calves being turned out to first grazing

LAMB SCOUR - CAUSES AND SUPPORTIVE FLUIDS

Lambs may scour (have diarrhoea) at any age and for a variety of reasons. Scour can be caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, nutritional issues and many other factors. The cause of scour cannot always be easily diagnosed for rapid accurate treatment. All animals that are scouring will be losing fluids as well as vital electrolytes and therefore fluid therapy that addresses these electrolyte imbalances is an important part of supportive therapy.

Scours may result in slow return to normal growth rates

How can you treat a scouring lamb?

No matter the cause of the scour, the treatment of a scouring animal should aim to:

- Address the cause, if possible
- Assess and correct dehydration
- Address acidosis/electrolyte imbalances
- Maintain energy

Any scouring animals that are too weak to stand or have lost their suck reflex should be assessed by your veterinary surgeon as intravenous fluids may be necessary.

It has been recognised for a number of years that removal of milk from scouring animals does not encourage recovery. So it is important to keep scouring animals on milk

There are numerous oral rehydration therapies (ORT) available and not all are equal. An ORT must supply the following in order to be of benefit to the animal:

- 90-130mmol/L sodium (enough to correct the losses)
- Glucose +/- another facilitator of sodium/water absorption
- Alkalinising capacity of 60-80mmol/L (strong ion difference (SID))
- 10-30mmol/L potassium
- Energy for maintenance and growth

Many ORT products contain high levels of bicarbonate or citrate which can affect milk clotting and therefore should be fed separate from milk, by 2 hours, ideally.

Rehydion gel is designed to be fed with milk or, if an animal is sucking, given directly into the mouth. The lamb is then allowed to return to the dam, so minimising stress. Rehydion gel has an SID of 75mmol/l and addresses the issues of electrolyte imbalances effectively whilst allowing recovery, repair and growth to continue as the lamb is still receiving milk.

One bottle of Rehydion gel = 160 feeds (2ml per feed). Feed each lamb 2 times a day until scour stops. **Costing 8p a dose.**

Rehydion gel can also be used in cattle. One bottle of Rehydion gel = 8 feeds (40ml per feed). Feed each calf 2 times a day until scour stops. **Costing £1.50 a dose.**

It is important to note that the animals will continue to scour until the gut is healed, so they may appear clinically well but still have loose faeces.



B12 DEFICIENCY IN LAMBS AND CALVES

We have recently been made aware of a long acting B12 supplement product for lambs and calves which is administered by injection from 3 weeks of age. If you are interested in this product please speak to one of our vets.

www.moorgatevets.co.uk

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MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,
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CHRISTOW SURGERY

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For appointments/repeat
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