



Dear Farmer,

Welcome to our latest edition of our farm newsletter. For further information or advice on any of the topics please contact our vets who will be happy to speak to you.

BOVINE PROLAPSES

Cows can prolapse before and after calving. While both situations are very different they both need to be corrected.



Vaginal prolapses tend to occur before calving usually in the heavily pregnant cow. The vaginal prolapse is more common and looks like a pink mass of tissue about the size of a large grapefruit or football. Mild prolapses will usually go back in when the cow gets up. But if she starts to prolapse each time she lies down, or if she strains while lying there, the tissues may be forced out further, to the point they cannot go back in. The longer it is left outside the cow's body, the more likely the following problem may occur:

- Infection making the cow seriously ill
- the swelling will make the birth process difficult
- the cow will not be able to urinate
- vaginal tissues will become damaged

For these reasons, vaginal prolapses should be repaired by a vet within 12 hours, even though the condition is not ordinarily life-threatening.

Prolapse uteri are of a more immediate nature and normally occur directly after calving. Prolapse of the uterus is a larger, longer mass, more deep red and covered with the "buttons" on which the placenta attached. Farmers should contact us immediately as uterine prolapses are life threatening.



It would be helpful if you could do the following before the vet arrives:

- Provide a bucket of clean warm water
- Provide a Clean sheet, ideally plastic (an open feed bag or tarpaulin)
- Secure the cow alone in a small clean pen

Special Offer
Buy four 200ml Anti-biotic (POM) sprays, get one free
£5.00 + VAT each

ARE YOU READY FOR LAMBING TIME?

Below is a list of lambing essentials we recommend you have at hand ready for the up and coming lambing season;

Disinfectant for hands, boots and equipment

Gloves

Heat-lamp or warming box

Lambing ropes

Lamb feeder and stomach tubes

Lubricant – one with added antiseptic is useful

Marker Spray

Medicines (Essentials):

- Solution containing Calcium, Magnesium and Dextrose for adult ewes
- Electrolytes for scouring animals
- 2% Iodine Solution or an Anti-biotic Spray for navel care

Medicines (Dependent on flock size):

- Broad spectrum injectable antibiotic
- Anti-inflammatory
- Propylene Glycol BP (pregnancy toxemia/twin lamb)
- Respiratory Stimulant Drops
- Solution to prevent Watery mouth disease

Milk powder

Needles and syringes

Note pad and pencil (writes in wet conditions)

Replacement colostrum powder

LAMBS – CASTRATION AND TAIL DOCKING

Castration and tail docking of lambs by the application of rubber rings should be carried out in the first week of life by an experienced shepherd over 17 years of age. Often the use of rubber rings stresses young lambs and should not be done in the first 24 hours as this may cause problems. Please note: It is a legal requirement that sufficient tail is retained to cover the vulva of female sheep and the anus of male sheep.

ENSURING CALF HEALTH IN THE FIRST FEW WEEKS: FOCUS ON SCOUR

Calves have a better chance of staying healthy in their first weeks of life if they get a good amount of high quality colostrum soon after birth, but preventing calf disease requires attention to many factors including the environment and keeping dams healthy and well nourished with strong immunity.

Vaccinating cows ahead of calving helps to build antibody levels in colostrum but the timing of vaccination is critical. A cow will start to collect antibodies in her mammary gland about 4-6 weeks prior to calving, and as it takes about



2 weeks for an animal to make its maximum response to a vaccine we recommend giving such vaccines at about 8 weeks prior to expected

calving. Conversely if you vaccinate too early the levels of antibodies in the bloodstream will be dropping at the time the cow is accumulating them in her mammary glands and the maximum effect will be missed.

Vaccinations are available to boost the colostral protection against Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E. coli. Consider which diseases have been diagnosed on your farm as there may be benefit to vaccinating dams to reduce incidence of calf scours caused by these diseases. We usually recommend against vaccinating cows for respiratory disease as colostral antibodies may interfere with the calves response to vaccination given to combat pneumonia.

Colostrum is one of the most important elements to ensuring good calf health and the best possible calf. A newborn calf should suck approximately 3l of colostrum in the first 6 hours of life. The calf's ability to absorb antibodies starts to reduce after about 12 hours, so early ingestion is vital. If a calf is slow to start, for example it has been pulled or perhaps from a heifer who is slow to mother her calf, then the calf must be given colostrum. Ideally this should be from the dam but if this is not possible then either from another cow on the farm or reconstituted can be used. We usually recommend 2 feeds of about 1.5 litres just after birth and then in 4-6 hours time. If a calf doesn't have a strong suckle reflex then this should be given by stomach tube. Pre calving vaccines used properly will improve the quality of colostrum from vaccinated cows.



Always remember though that vaccines can't fix poor management. You can never overcome a very high challenge to the calves with vaccination alone. Maintaining a clean calving environment, batch calving or keeping a tight calving pattern and ensuring good dam nutrition (though not over-feeding) are all important factors too.

Management of scouring calves relies on several factors, the most important of which is keeping them rehydrated, as it is dehydration which is the eventual cause of death. Scouring calves should be given additional fluids and electrolytes, by stomach tube if necessary and the volume of this should reflect the size of the calf and the amount of fluid being lost but typically 6-8 litres a day is needed just to maintain hydration. Anti-inflammatory drugs to combat toxins in the blood and pain and inflammation of the intestines are helpful too. Antibiotics are important in treating scour caused by bacteria, but not viral scour – one of the reasons it is important to take samples to ascertain the cause of any scour outbreak.

If you would like to discuss pre-calving vaccines, calf scours, or any other issues with your herd then please contact the surgery and speak to one of the vets.



HEPTAVAC-P PLUS



Is this the time of year your adult sheep should be receiving their annual booster vaccinations of Heptavac-P Plus?

In adult breeding ewes yearly booster injections should be given during the pre-lambing period, 4-6 weeks before lambing, as an aid in the control of lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney, tetanus and pasteurellosis provided that the lambs receive sufficient immune colostrum during the first 1-2 days of life.

All breeding sheep not vaccinated with Heptavac P Plus in the previous 12 months or that have been vaccinated with any other type of clostridial vaccine must receive two injections, separated by an interval of 4-6 weeks. Remember that breeding ewes must receive the second dose 4-6 weeks before lambing as an aid in control of disease in their lambs.

WARNING: When handling sheep, stress should be avoided, particularly during the latter stages of pregnancy when there is a risk of inducing abortion and metabolic disorders.

DOSE: 2ml subcutaneous injection

PRICE (exc. VAT):

Heptavac-P Plus 50ml	£17.00
Heptavac-P Plus 100ml	£30.00
Heptavac-P Plus 250ml	£72.50
Heptavac-P Plus 500ml	£135.00



Practice Facilities

- 24 Hour Emergency Service
- Disease Treatments
- Disease Prevention
- Pregnancy Diagnosis
- Synchronisation of Oestrus
- Herd & Flock Health Plans
- Tuberculin Testing
- Castrations
- Dehorning
- Bull Fertility Testing

BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

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TELEPHONE ; 01626
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MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

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CHRISTOW SURGERY

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FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE

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