

Dear Farmer,

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

ARE YOUR HERD AND FLOCK HEALTH PLANS UP TO DATE?

Health planning is an essential tool for improving profitability and animal health. Many farmers will already have existing herd and/or flock health plans in place. These plans are most effective when accurate records are kept and therefore should be reassessed annually by a vet to ensure management and preventative measures can be implemented on farm. Remember prevention is much better than cure and much less costly.

ARE YOU READY FOR LAMBING TIME?

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 for navel care
- Medicines (Dependent on flock size):
- Broad spectrum injectable antibiotic
- Anti-inflammatory
- Propylene Glycol BP (pregnancy toxæmia/twin lamb)
- Respiratory Stimulant Drops
- Watery mouth Prevention

Milk and colostrum powder

Needles and syringes

Note pad and pencil (writes in wet conditions)

TB AND CAMELIDS

Alpacas and other camelids are becoming an increasingly common sight across our countryside. We need to remember that these animals are also at risk from contracting TB and spreading TB.

The APHA can ask to test your animals for TB if:

- meat originating from your animals has tested positive for TB bacteria that causes TB (*M. bovis*) has been found in laboratory samples of your animals
- TB has been found in animals that are kept close to your animals. Positive tests are needed for you to remove movement restrictions on your animals animals have moved to your premises from a place where TB has been confirmed (tracings)
- the APHA think there's a risk that your animals have been infected with TB

You must restrict the movement of your animals until the APHA vet is satisfied that your animals don't have TB. You don't pay for these tests - the government covers the costs. You must allow an APHA vet to test your animals for TB. If you don't allow the APHA vet to test your animals you must slaughter your animals or continue to restrict their movement

For non-bovine animals the vet must use the tuberculin skin test. The vet injects tuberculins into the animal's skin and measures how the skin has reacted after about 3 days. The vet will repeat the tests after 90 days for camelids if your animals test negative both times, the vet will confirm that they don't have TB. For camelids, the vet must first use the tuberculin skin test. If camelids test negative for TB, the vet will do 2 blood tests 10 to 30 days later.

You must slaughter any animals that test positive for TB. You'll need to restrict the movement of your animals until:

- all infected animals have been slaughtered
- all non-infected animals have had 2 negative TB tests

For day-to-day control APHA recommend that you test animals for TB before you bring them onto your premises (at your own expense). You should also keep a record of:

- animals moving on and off your premises
- your animals that go to events, e.g. livestock shows or if they're moved for mating

To help protect your animals from TB see our December 2015 newsletter and have a read of the article "Protecting your Herd from TB" (Visit our website <http://www.moorgatevets.co.uk/news/> to view our newsletter archive's).

LIVER FLUKE

Due to the increased warm and wet climate we have seen an increase in cases of liver fluke. Worryingly, we have been seeing cases of fluke in areas and farms who have not traditionally had problems. Across the UK the incidence of liver condemnation has nearly doubled in the last 10 years.

The liver fluke parasite has a relatively long and complex life-cycle, which involves a stage in a mud snail. As a result, predicting the pattern of the disease can be challenging, and two forms are seen, acute fluke is seen in the autumn, commonly in sheep and can cause sudden death.

Chronic fluke leads to poor body condition, coughing and a failure to thrive. This is typically seen during winter and early spring and is due to adult flukes in the bile ducts. This disease is commonly seen in both sheep and cattle. Chronic fluke can be diagnosed on post mortem but also often on faecal samples.

It is possible to reduce the amount of fluke by management, which is centered around avoiding the snail habitats by improving drainage, trying to avoid poaching fields e.g. around feeders (nearly impossible at the moment!) and even fencing off areas of particular risk.

Treatment during housing or over winter is recommended for at risk stock to prevent over-wintering of parasites and also to reduce the risk of chronic liver fluke disease. You have to bear in mind the action of the individual drug when planning treatments – for example Trodax will kill any fluke over 8 weeks of age, so you will either need to delay treatment for 8 weeks after housing so all fluke are mature enough to be eliminated, or if animals are suspected to have a heavy burden then two treatments should be given – at housing and 8 weeks later.

If you would like to discuss fluke management and treatments please speak to one of the vets



Trodax 1LTR £143.65 + VAT

Trodax 250ml £41.45 + VAT

Order 1 Litre or more to receive a FREE dosing gun



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 4-6 weeks before lambing period. This will aid in the control of lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney, tetanus and pasteurellosis provided that the lambs receive sufficient colostrum during the first 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	£18.00
Heptavac-P Plus 100ml	£35.00
Heptavac-P Plus 250ml	£80.00
Heptavac-P Plus 500ml	£145.00



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