

Dear Farmer,

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

## WINTER CATTLE MANAGEMENT

### Parasites

Youngstock will need to be wormed at or just after housing to prevent type II (overwintered) worm disease.

Adult cattle should not need regular worm treatment unless there is a very high burden or other health issues, but will need management of fluke.

Winter is an ideal time to treat for fluke as housed cattle will not be picking up new infection so treatments aimed at older fluke (e.g. Trodax) will be effective, and as temperatures drop below 10°C even outwintered cattle should stop picking up new infection. If you haven't already treated now would be a good time to either treat the herd for fluke or to perform a dung test to check for infection.

It is during the housed period when animals have their winter coat that problems such as lice will be more obvious and will spread more quickly between animals in close contact so you may need to treat for these too.

### Respiratory disease

Housed youngstock are at a greater risk of pneumonia due to poorer air quality and close contact, with fluctuating temperatures and high humidity also increasing the risk. Moist air carries more bacteria and viruses, and air borne contamination like ammonia from dung damages the lung's ability to protect themselves. Try to ensure sheds are as dry as possible by bedding frequently and if possible preventing rain ingress / water leaks. Ideally the floor should have a slight slope to facilitate drainage. Good air circulation is also important, animals should be out of direct draughts but the air space above them needs to ventilate well, with a sufficient area in the roof for hot air to leave and ventilation in the sides to allow fresh air in.

You should aim to be able to put your face at calf level and not feel any draughts or smell any ammonia!

### Scours

Infectious scours can also be more common as animals in close contact will pick up disease from each other, good hygiene will help to reduce this, ensuring water troughs are clean and feed from passages or troughs rather than the ground. Provide a separate source of clean straw for calves to eat rather than their bedding.



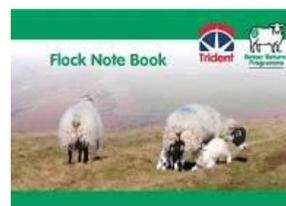
## BARREN AND ABORTED EWES

When barren ewes are found at scanning it is important to mark these animals and consider testing before having them culled.

Aborted ewes should also be marked, quarantined and tested.

Keeping good records of what is happening within your flock is a vital part of sheep production, it is the first step towards identifying where losses are occurring in order to prevent them.

There is often subsidised testing available for barren and aborted ewes so please contact the surgery to discuss your options. Testing and looking back over your records may well reveal the value of vaccinating breeding animals before tupping against Enzootic Abortion and/or Toxoplasma.



## LAMBING CLUB

We are again this year offering a discount scheme to sheep farmers. Our Lambing Club has proven successful over the last few years with many clients taking up the scheme and saving money. We often see lambings after the ewe has been struggling for several hours and we hope that this scheme will not only save money but encourage farmers to call the vet for help sooner, therefore resulting in better outcomes.

Join today to receive the following benefits.....

- **All lambings seen during our opening hours are FREE**

*This includes prolapses as a result of pregnancy/birth and inductions.*

- **All lambings seen out of hours are HALF PRICE**

*This also includes prolapses as a result of pregnancy/birth and inductions.*

- **All Ewe Caesareans are HALF PRICE**

- **10% Discount on lambing supplies**

*Lambing ropes, lubricants, disinfectants, colostrum & lamb feeders*

*Drug and Visits fees are charged as normal.*

*All discounts will be applied once membership has been paid in full.*

Annual Membership Fees are based on the previous years usage:

Less than 8 lambings, caesars or prolapses  
8 or more

**£50.00 + VAT**

**£100.00 + VAT**

## SAVE £120.00 ON SUBSIDISED LABORATORY TESTING

Have you had bovine respiratory problems (pneumonia) within your youngstock? If yes then consider taking advantage of Zoetis' subsidised serology tests.

Zoetis will subsidise serology tests on 5 calves per farm. Tests included are for BVD, IBR, RSV, PI3 and Mycoplasma Bovis. The total laboratory cost per calf is £14.00 (£70 +VAT in total – normally £190.20 + VAT).

Our vets will discuss with you which 5 calves will make good clinical candidates and will arrange a visit to take blood samples (this can be done at your annual TB test). The calves must be aged over 4 months and up to 12 months – ideally over 5-6 months old once the maternal antibodies' have dropped.

### DRAXXIN

Draxxin which is commonly known for the treatment of Pneumonia in cattle is now licensed for the use in sheep for the treatment of the early stages of infectious pododermatitis (foot rot). If you have a problem with foot rot within your flock and the conventional treatment methods are not working speak to one of the vets to discuss alternative treatment options.

### 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.

## Practice Facilities

Appointment System  
Parking  
24 Hour Emergency Service  
Modern Surgical Facilities  
Nurse Clinics  
In-House Laboratory  
Digital X Ray Machine  
Pet Care Plans

### BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

Mill House, Station Road,  
Bovey Tracey, Newton  
Abbot, TQ13 9AL  
TELEPHONE ; 01626  
833023

### MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,  
Moretonhampstead,  
Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG  
TELEPHONE ; 01647  
440441

### CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,  
Exeter, EX6 7NS  
For appointments/repeat  
prescriptions etc.  
TELEPHONE; 01626 833023

### FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE

TELEPHONE : 01647  
440441



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