

## April 2012

Over all, lambing still seems to be going very well. **Not many problems** with the lambs at all which is very good news. With the advent of a colder week it will be a real shock to the lambs and so **shelter is of the utmost importance**. Have a look at your fields where your lambs are and make sure there are **areas they can hide from the cold**. If in doubt put up some shelters or drop some bales in the field which they **can hide behind**.

The biggest problems we have seen are **big lambs** leading to caesarians and sheep pushing their reeds out.

- The most likely reason for this is that the **lambs are just so big that** there is not much room inside the ewe.
- To correct them place a **harness on the ewe** and give her a **shot of metacam** under the skin.

With the **worm season** upon us, hopefully for the later born lambs **nematodirus** won't be so much of an issue. With this lovely weather they should have **already hatched out** and so missed infecting our later born lambs, but still be on the alert.

We have already seen an **amount of coccidiosis in lambs**.

- We are offering a **free single faecal egg count per farm**. Please bring us **10 samples** from your lambs and we shall pool them and look under the microscope. This only **takes a few minutes** to do and could save you a fortune. Don't just bring us just the sloppy samples but also the firm ones.
- If you suspect cocci then vecoxan is the **ideal prevention**. Don't forget we want the lambs to get a small amount of cocci to elicit immunity against it.

In the cattle we have had a **couple of break downs of IBR**, this is in vaccinated herds, which have been "getting away" **with only one vaccination per year**. This has let them down this year and cost the farmers a lot of money. It has really highlighted the importance of **vaccinating at least twice a year**.

It is also important to **do the heifers just before they enter the main herd** as these are the group that are most affected.

With turnout well upon us many of you are asking about **worming of your young stock**. This year the price of autoworm has shot up to over £14 pounds.

- Autoworm is an excellent product due to ease and it also allows the animal to build up immunity to the worms. A cheaper alternative at over £9 an animal cheaper would be the use of cydectin long acting.

Product	Characteristics	Dose regime	Meat withdrawal.
<b>Autoworm first grazer</b>	<b>Season long protection. Pulse release system</b>	<b>One bolus admin at turnout. Cattle from 100 – 400 kg</b>	<b>8 months</b>
Cydectin LA	150 days persistence	Inject at base of ear. 1 ml / 100 kg. Give at turnout or ideally 3 weeks after turnout (but more of a hassle.)	108 days.

Over the last couple of years we have had more and more **lung worm cases occurring in adult cattle**.

- There is a very good vaccine called **huskvac** that some of you are using with excellent results. This **gives life long immunity to the cattle** if they are **vaccinated** as calves just prior to turnout. It is **very good value for money** over the life of the cattle. Talk to us about it.

**Schmallenberg virus**. There are now over **209 cases** in the UK.

- 17 on cattle farms and 192 in sheep. We still have had no cases in Wales or Shropshire.

Although this is a worrying number it has not spread as badly on the continent as previously expected so let's hope the disease is **not going to be as bad as first thought**.

### **Dairy cell check:**

Ave S.C.C	127	<b>Average milk yield</b>	8.
Conception rate ave	35%	<b>Ave heifer 305 yield</b>	6.9
		<b>Ave protein</b>	3.4%

### **Strike in cattle.**

Clostridial diseases are still the biggest killer of young stock out at grass.

Don't forget to **vaccinate at turnout**.

- For around £1.50 you can protect £1000s of pounds of your investments.

[Use Bravoxin 10.](#)