

## December 2013:

Where has this year gone? It started awfully with metres of snow and is hopefully ending relatively mild. Clinically we are **not seeing loads of problems**. The main call out is for **pneumonia**. We are getting **huge temperature changes in 24 hours**. As I keep harping on calves **don't like temperature changes**, they don't like **wet**, they don't like being **crammed in with lots of other cattle that are older than them**. They do love **good quality, very very cheap colostrum**, followed by **lots of milk and not just 4 litres a day**. They also **love 24 hour access to water**. The farms which provide clean water every day are getting far better growth rates and less disease than the ones who are not providing any water!

In the **sheep flocks things are relatively settled at the moment**. A few **sudden deaths** from strike / colostridial disease, again this is generally where **people haven't vaccinated the lambs**. We are starting to see sheep scab again.

If you suspect it then please bring the sheep to us for a **diagnosis**.

- An incorrect treatment can cost you a fortune and be a total waste of time and money.



### **Which of the 2 above where scab??**

- One pen was in the abattoir.....At least 15 of them were condemned as scab had affected their lymph nodes!!

**Effective treatment for sheep scab**. – but only the sheep dip covers lice as well.

Product	Administration	Withdrawal	Persistence of action
Cydectin 1 %	2 injections 10 days apart	70 days	28 days
Cydectin LA	One injection at base of ear	104 days	60 days
Dectomax	1 injection	56 days	Less than 17 days
Ivermectin	2 injection 7 days a part.	37 days	Zero
OP sheep dips	Dip	70 days	30 days

Effective lice treatments are shown below.		
Product	Lice	Meat withdrawal
Dysect	Treats	28 days
Clik	No	40 days
Crovect	Treats	8 days
Clikazin	No	7 days

### IBR

- In our cattle we are also seeing IBR rearing its ugly head.
- **67% of dairy farms** and **65% of beef farms** in the UK suffer from IBR.
- An affected dairy cow produces **173 litres less milk / year** than a non infected cow which is a **loss of about £45 per year per cow**.
- In an outbreak **2% of the herd will die** and there will be an **extension of 4 weeks to reach finishing weight**.
- The virus **spreads very rapidly though out a herd** and will infect cattle above 3 months old.
- Once an animal has the virus it cannot get rid of it. It will shed the **virus whenever it gets stressed** such as calving time or housing time. The **animals that are not vaccinated** or have not come across the virus before ie the heifers then **become infected**.
- In an outbreak we get **runny noses and eyes** but in an infected herd that is dealing with the disease we get sudden milk drops, increased post calving problems, unexplained high temperature, poor fertility. **If you don't suffer from any of these then you don't need to worry!!**

Your heifers are the most at risk animals. Try to vaccinate them just prior to the introduction to the herd.

- **Vaccination** reduces **clinical signs** of disease, it **reduces the spread of virus** within the herd and it improves the **herd health** and **profitability of your herd**.
- When injecting into the **muscle** the immunity doesn't start **for 7 – 10 days**, if squirted up the **nose** immunity is within a **couple of days**, so this is better in the case of a clinical outbreak.

**If in doubt talk to us.**



From everyone at **Trefaldwyn Vets** we would very much like to wish you all a **very Happy Christmas** and thank you all for being **such great clients**. We very much **appreciate your support**, even though we may appear a bit grumpy at 3.00am in the morning!!!