

## June 2011.

With this very dry weather that we are experiencing we have **not seen the worm outbreak** we were expecting, which is a bonus. Just be careful that if this weather suddenly breaks and we have a lot of rain it could trigger a **nematodirus outbreak**.

Likewise on the cattle side if we get a **flush of grass**, people that have **fertilized the fields are at a high risk of staggers**.

On feedback from the dear farm assurance people we are informed that the number one failure is the filling out of the **medicine book along with not having the herd health plans up to date!!!** There is a rumbling across Europe that we may have the **right to prescribe antibiotics with drawn** which would have huge implications for all our businesses. I would urge people to make **sure their medicine book is up to date and correct**. We also have a new herd health plan, which the people in the **red tractor scheme have to fill out**. If this is you then please bear in **mind we will need more time to go through it**.

- On a lighter note Oli is getting married on 24<sup>th</sup> June. He is then away for 2 weeks after, he will be thinking of you on the sun bed!!!

### Catching cows on heat can be very hard work these days.

#### Heat detection tips for year round calving herds.

1. Watch cows for 30 mins 2 x daily. Early morning and early evening.
2. Watch cows **away from the feed fence** and not just when coming in for milk.
3. Hot weather, high production, crowded conditions and heat stress all curb mounting activity.
4. Cows in standing heat only do 1.5 mounts per hour for 6 – 8 hours. **Be vigilant**.
5. Cows don't always stand.

### Use your vet for routine fertility visits.

Typically cows to present:

1. Post natal check: Cows 21 days post calving. Esp if had twins or a difficult calving.
2. Not seen bullers: Cows not seen from 45 days onwards.
3. Pregnancy diagnosis: From 35 days onwards.

#### For those using bulls: Are you sure he is working?

We have had a couple of instances where the bull has been assumed to be working but 6 weeks later the cows are all returning. **Don't forget we can check the bulls fertility.**

Product	Nuisance flies (control)	Mange (controls)	Lice	Meat withdrawal	Dose rate (ml/animal)
<b>Swish</b>	8 - 10 weeks	No	Protects 8 - 10 weeks	20 days	Varies with size
<b>Spot on</b>	1 month	No	Treats and controls	17 days	10 ml
<b>Dysect</b>	4 - 5 weeks	No	Treats and controls	28 days	10ml
<b>Flypor</b>	8 weeks	Yes	Treats and controls	3 days	Varies with size

#### The benefits of fly control include:

1. Reducing mastitis in the milking herd.
2. Reducing summer mastitis in the dry cows.
3. Reducing eye problems in the youngstock.
  - Don't forget to do the whole herd not just the adults.

### Dairy cell check:

Average S.C.C	168
Average lactation yield.	8.2
305 day yield	7.3
<b>Average protein</b>	3.4

#### LDA's.

We are still seeing a fair few of these through out the practice, but I am very pleased to say far less than other parts of the country. So well done.

Areas to think of if experiencing a lot are:

1. **Dry cow nutrition**, this is critical. The **far off dry** needs a good forage diet that will expand the rumen. The ideal is a round bale of silage.

The **close up diet** should be a watered down version of the milking diet, please make sure the mineral content is for dry cows.

2. **Milk fevers**. If you are experiencing these then a quick fix may be 60g of **mag chloride** in the diet of the dry cows.

- If you are worried then please talk to us at the vets along with your nutritionalist.