

June 2013

Finally a little taste of summer. The grass is finally growing and the animals are mending. We have not had any cases of **staggers** in the practice but there have definitely **been cases** out there this year. Make sure your cows are having a **good intake of magnesium**, either in the water / feed or as licks. If using licks then try to make sure the **badger can't get to them**. Our **TB situation** in the practice is **not good** at all at the moment.

Unfortunately everyone has heard of the **Schmallenberg virus** by now. We think it got to our area **last June / July**. It fortunately didn't wreak the havoc that it did in some parts of the country. We have done a **handful of caesarians in sheep and cattle** due to deformities. One of the main symptoms last year was **resorbing cattle** ie they were diagnosed in calf and then they lost it. Whether this was down to the **weather / nutrition or the virus** we don't know. The **Schmallenberg vaccine** has been developed and released.

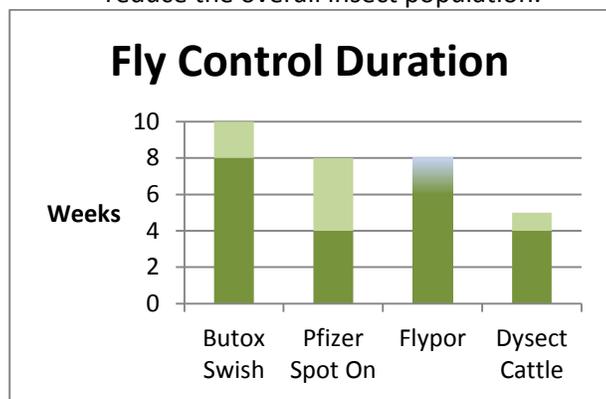
- For **sheep** it requires a **single injection** of 2ml under the skin. It needs to be at least 3 weeks prior to tupping. In sheep there will be a **swelling at the injection site**.
- In **cattle** it is 2 injection 4 weeks apart into the muscle. As the reaction has not been assessed yet it is not recommended for use in pregnant animals! The cost apparently is around £3 / shot. It may be that the single course will last for a life time but further work needs to be done to assess this.

As we know this **virus** is spread by **midges** and a further way to try and reduce it is via **good fly / midge control**. **Early insecticide treatment** of cattle and sheep can help **reduce the insect populations** that cause irritation for livestock. Applying a proven insecticide early on will both **reduce the first wave of attack** from biting insects and **cut next generation numbers**.

Trial evidence suggests that **pour-on insecticide application for midge control**, coupled with **starting stock treatment early in the season**, should **reduce the number of females able to lay eggs**. And this will help reduce the overall insect population.

Vector Control Tips

- Reduce potential **insect breeding sites**
- Consider **housing** livestock at dawn and dusk
- **Insecticides** will not eliminate the risk of vector-borne disease transfer, but usage on stock can potentially reduce the overall insect population.



Did you know?
In England from 2016 it will be **illegal** not to have your dog **microchipped!** We are currently offering microchipping for **£9.75 / dog**.

Nasty BVD outbreak!
There is currently a nasty strain of BVD affecting herds in **Germany and the Netherlands**. At the moment there is **nothing to worry about**. It is a variation of a known strain but causing up to **90% mortality**. Please be wary if you are **importing any cattle**. Make sure you **isolate them and get them blood sampled** on arrival.

- Make sure your herd is **fully vaccinated**.

Product	Blowfly strike. Prevention	Strike treatment	Headfly Protection	Ticks Protection	Lice	Meat withdrawal
Dysect	8-10 weeks	Yes	6 weeks	8-12 weeks	Treats	28 days
Clik	16 weeks	No	Nil	Nil	Nil	40 days
Crovect	6-8 weeks	Yes	4 weeks	Treats & controls	Treats	8 days
Clikazin	8 weeks	No	No	No	No	7 days

Why use Clik or clikazine?
Answer: **Fleece bind technology**. This means the product binds to the wool from the tip to the base. As the fleece grows it adheres to it causing an even distribution and **not diluting out**.

Fluke in dairy cattle. As we all know the use of **triclabendazole** is prohibited in milking cows!! Defra and the milk companies are **currently testing for it in the milk**. Triclabendazole is the best type of flukicide, but we can only **recommend the use of combinex or fasinex 240** in the dry period. Please ask in the surgery for further details.