

June 2016

- We are continuing to be called to lots of **difficult calvings**. The cause of this “outbreak” is not clear, but the reason is on account of **big calves** being born. The dams have put **too much condition** on during the winter months and the **feed has been pokier** than we fully realized.
- On the back of this we are seeing increased numbers of **uterine prolapses**. Again the causes can be multifactorial but to help reduce them we would always **recommend a shot of pain relief** to the mother after calving. This not only **reduces the pain** (which apparently is quite high during birth (nearly as bad as stubbing your toe)), but also **reduces the inflammation** in the vagina. This will hopefully stop the cow from pushing.
- A **calcium bolus** after calving will also combat any **sub clinical milk fever** which can lead to **prolapses**.

People have also reported **slow calvings** in that the cows simply aren't getting on with it.

The exact cause can be difficult to ascertain but often the **mineral status** of the diet is low in Se or Iodine but high in Molybdenum. Again **sub clinical milk fever** is often a player as well as **cows being too over conditioned**. **Moving cows** at the last moment before calving can also stop them getting on with the job at hand.

- Try to have your **calving box next door to the close ups**. The calving box should have a good restraining area so it is easy to examine the cow. Ideally a vet box so that if a caesarian is required it is safe for cow and vet. If the vet feels safe, the success is a lot, lot better.

We have also had a lot of **scouring calves**. The same old problems have been isolated.

1. **Rotavirus**: There is an excellent vaccine called rotavec. It is a one off injection given 3 weeks to 3 months prior to calving.
 2. **Crypto**: Halocur given every day for the first 7 days of life reduce this.
 3. **E coli**: More difficult to prevent against.
- What they all have in common is that if the **hygiene is improved and the dry cow diet is optimum** then the scours should be reduced to virtually zero.

On the **dairy side** we have **seen a few LDAs (twists)**. There are a **few golden rules** that need to be adhered to for the dry cows in order to reduce the risk of these and other fresh calved problems. These are:

Plenty of feed space:	75cm minimum.
Feed availability:	24 hours / day stress free access to fresh palatable feeds.
Fresh clean water :	10cm / cow trough space.
No over crowding:	1m ² of lying space / 1000 litres milk production per year, plus a third as much again loafing / feeding areas.
Socialisation:	Avoidance of unnecessary group changing. Try to move in pairs.

In the sheep: We have had a **few sudden deaths in ewes**. This has been attributed to:

- I. **Staggers (mag deficiency)**. The best way to combat this is via high mag, energy licks.
- II. **Pasteurella**: Often this occurs in recently purchased animals which are not in the heptavac P system.
- III. **Clostridial diseases (strike)**: Make sure the animals are fully vaccinated as for the above. If you are experiencing an outbreak then give us a call.
- IV. **Pneumonia in ewes**: There are a few nasty diseases that can cause underlying issues. This means that the lungs are then more susceptible to pasteurella. If you are worried, then please give us a call to discuss this further.
- V. **Nematodirus**: This has been seen in the lambs. If in doubt bring us some poo samples asap. We would recommend the use of a white wormer or levamisole to treat this.

A few of you have started to buy sheep in for your replacements. As with cattle **you don't just buy the sheep you also buy their diseases**. A few of them include:

1. **Resistant worms and scab**: To combat this, yard the sheep for 48 hours then drench with zovix and cydectin LA.
2. **Clostridial diseases**: Make sure the animals are in the system, if not start straight away.
3. **Enzootic abortion**: Make sure the animals are vaccinated against this before going to the tup.
4. **Foot rot / CODD**: Consider vaccinating with foot vax and keep a close eye on the sheep for signs of lameness. If it looks like CODD contact us asap as this can cost a fortune.