

## May 2016.

With this unseasonably cold weather and consequent lack of grass the calf pens have been **very full from scouring calves**.

- We are seeing a lot of **crypto and rotavirus** in the calves up to 7 days of age.
  - In speaking to one of our clients who had an awful problem a couple of years ago he now swears **by the 21 day rule**. In other words he only **keeps calves that are born within 3 weeks of each other together**. He believes this has been one of the best management changes he has ever done and has massively reduced his scouring.
  - **Hygiene** is really important for new born calves. The problem is that a lot of sheds are very full after a long wet winter and the muck is building up. Try to **keep the cows** which are bagging up in as **clean environment as possible**. Think about **clipping dirty tails**, so that the calf is not sucking on these.
  - **Lime** in the pens is really good at **drying up the beds**, and lots of bugs can't survive in this.
  - Keep **young calves away from older calves**.
  - As much as possible keep **adult muck away from calves!!!**
  - For crypto **halocur** will work as a good prevention.
  - For rotavirus then the **rotavec** vaccine is very good when administered to the cattle **3 weeks to 3 months** prior to calving. If **colostrum quality** is poor then rotavec is a waste of time.
  - **Speed of calving** is very important. If a calf is **slow to be born**, then they come out **acidotic and won't suck**. They are then more prone to picking up bugs.
  - If you are experiencing problems please don't hesitate to contact us.

We are still seeing **pneumonia outbreaks** in adults as well as youngstock. The weather has been so changeable which is a nightmare for all cattle. It has also been pretty wet!! Which means the bugs can have a party.

- Vaccines work well but **nothing beats good ventilation and fresh air**. Walking into these sheds it can feel hot and stuffy, which is lovely on a cold day but the bugs love it as well.

With the **low prices of milking cows**, many of you are buying cattle in. Don't forget **you don't just buy the cow you also buy the bugs that go with her**. This might be Johnes, BVD, TB, pneumonia etc etc. On the flip side **you may have bugs that these cows have never seen before**. Remember when you went back to school after summer lots of people went down with colds it is the same thing for cattle.

- **Try to isolate your cows for 21 days**. I know it is difficult and often impractical, but if you want to give these cows a fighting chance it is the best way.
- During this time **test the cows** for the diseases you haven't got, including BVD.
- **Vaccinate** these cows for the diseases you have got.
- This way they can go into the herd with maximum protection and start making you money instead of losing it.

Once this grass starts to grow hopefully it will shoot up, so just be wary of **staggers**. We have already had at least one case. It was a **classic situation**, a cow with a 2 month old calf, outside, in poor weather.

- Prevention includes **high mag licks**, but beware of the badgers. **Mag chloride** in the water. **Mag boluses**.

**Sudden death** in youngstock can be easily avoided by using the **clostridial vaccines** such as Bravoxin 10.

- 1 in 4 deaths are attributed to black leg. It seems to occur on specific fields. The loss of one animal can cover the cost of vaccination for at least 10 years. **Prevention is far better than cause as death is the first sign of this disease**.

**Nematodirus** has started to rear its ugly head. We have not heard of any deaths associated with this however the counts are starting to be quite high. Look for signs such as **dirty bums or lambs not putting on the live weight gain**.

- Bring us **10 poo samples** for us to confirm.
- Treat using either tramazole or levacide low volume.

If this weather does heat up like they are predicting we will start to see **blow fly strike**.

- **Please see the chart below to tailor your farms needs to the product:**

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
Vetrazin	10 weeks	No	No	No	No	3 / 28 days
Clikazin	8 weeks	No	No	No	No	7 days

**We now open our Llanfair surgery twice a day Monday till Friday. The times are always the same; 9 till 11 and 3.30 till 5. We stock the medicines you require, and fantastic vets up there!!!**

- **Please let people know about our new opening times.**