

November 2010:

Many of you have been asking us at the counter about **fluke** and so I thought I would pen a few facts down about it. The main issue is that in the past it was seasonal, starting in September and finishing April time. Now a days it is a year round problem and so a good prevention strategy must be in place to prevent severe disease outbreaks.

- ❖ The lifecycle of the fluke can be as short as 3 months but in most cases it is around 6 months.
- ❖ Lots of fluke are released when the rains come after a period of prolonged dry.

Clinical signs: **In the Autumn.**

- ❖ In sheep, **sudden death** of previously healthy animals, while other animals **don't eat as much**, they are **weak**, they go **white in the gums** and around the eyes.
- ❖ They have **painful abdomens** and are **short of breath**.
- ❖ It is a common cause of **poor reproductive performance**.
- ❖ Severe signs of fluke are less often seen in cattle.

February onwards Chronic fluke is seen.

- ❖ This is when **bottle jaw** is observed, the animals are **still pale** but they have **swollen abdomens** with a **poor condition score**.
- ❖ In cattle there are the above signs as well as **reduced milk yields and poor performance**.
- ❖ It also **exacerbates other problems** such as pneumonia/ mastitis etc.

The **national disease forecasts** predict a **moderate risk** of fluke to stock this Autumn.

Prevention:

In sheep or overwintered cattle I would recommend the use of **endofluke or triclafas**. This should be done now if you have not already done it. The product must have **triclabendazole** in as this is effective for immature fluke.

In cattle if you are housing them then wait until they have been housed for 2 weeks.

If you are not housing in the next couple of weeks then consider using the **Closamectin pour-on** now then re fluking after housing.

Don't forget your youngstock as they are just as susceptible as the adults.

If in doubt then ask us at the vets as there are various tests we can carry out to check the fluke status of your farm.

Lungworm.

On our rounds we are noticing a coughing heifers / youngstock. If you have not vaccinated at turnout with Husk vac then I would recommend you **considered worming the cattle** asap.

CODD/ Foot rot and scald.

If you are keen to try and eradicate it from your sheep flock then read on.....

- ❖ In Northumberland work is being carried out which appears to have **eradicated the above** from the farms as well as massively improving the over all well being of the sheep.
- ❖ The farmers have called the vet in who has **injected every sheep on the farm with micoty!**!! This is done as a one off, with all replacements being done yearly. At the moment there are very exciting results. If you are interested then please contact us.

We have a meeting booked for all dairy and beef farmers. It is going to be on **"Feeding the pregnant cow"**. The date is going to be on 1/12/10 at the Raven, starting at 7.30. All are welcome. Refreshments will be supplied.

Be there are be square.

For all sheep farmers please see the enclosed flyer for **"Protecting your sheep from disease."** This is run by the Moredun and is FOC. I would strongly recommend you attend if possible. It will be very, good.

Dairy cell check:

Average S.C.C	222	Average protein	3.3	Average % of cows with a SCC above 300 in different stages of lactation	
Average milk yield	8.8	Ave conception rate	36	0-99 days	10.5
Average age of heifer				100 - 199 days	10.2
1 st calving (months)	32.9			200 + days	21.7

