

October 2013.

Are your cattle coughing? If they have been outside in the last few months and have not been vaccinated with **huskvac** then this could well be a case of **lungworm**. The lab is reporting a **very bad year** and they have even seen it in **adult beef cows**, which is very unusual. If you are worried then speak to us at the vets.

- We would recommend a **pour on** down there backs. In Dairy don't forget the milk withdrawal issue.

At housing this year I would recommend a **pour on along with a fluke drench** such as endofluke, for all **youngstock**.

- The fluke product should contain a **triclabendazole** type product so that it can effectively remove any **immature fluke**.

We are seeing **worms in lambs**. If you are worried then please bring us some **poo samples** so we can have a look at them down the microscope to see if there are any **worm eggs**. We need **10 samples** for it to be meaningful, these can simply be collected from the field or pen floor. Use a **tea spoon** so you can also collect the sloppy ones.

- We do a fair amount of **faecal egg counting and resistance checking but not enough**. I really can't emphasize the importance of **not over worming**. If we end up with resistance on your farm you will not be able to finish lambs cost effectively. There has already been cases of zolvix resistance in New Zealand!!

Sole occupancy licenses are coming to an end!! This means as of the **end of October** the ministry will not issue any **new ones** but existing ones still stand. The movement of animals between holdings that are not under a licence will have to be **pre movement TB tested**, which is a real hassle and a cost.

- Please make sure you are legal and sort one out if you need one asap.

BVD: Oh no not again I hear you say! Why are the vets so obsessed with this? If you are solely a sheep farmer then I agree don't read on..... If you are a closed herd, we have tested and found you have not got BVD, and we have had a discussion about how to keep it out then put this in the recycling bin.

Have you **bought calves / any animal** in and then **experienced pneumonia/scours**, then this could be BVD?

Are you having a **few abortions / cows repeating** despite vaccinating then this could also be BVD?

Would you like to **sell animals at the market for a premium**? Then think about BVD accreditation!

There are **various grants in England and Wales** that we may be able to access to help you find out your status!

Why should I test for BVD? It is the most **economically** damaging cattle diseases, but also one of the **easiest to eradicate**.

Do I have to cull antibody positive animals? **No**, these are protected against BVD.

- You need to **cull antigen positive** i.e. persistently infected animals (PIs).

What is a PI? These are animals which have picked up the **disease whilst in the uterus**. They are infected during the **first third of pregnancy**. Once they are infected they can **never be cured**. They **spread BVD** to other non-infected animals. They invariably crash and die.

Aren't PIs easy to spot? **No**. They are not always the runty calves. In fact a PI bull once won the Nantwich show.

I vaccinate surely I am fine? **Unfortunately not necessarily**. No vaccine is 100% and so one animal may slip through the net. Some people **forget to do the heifers before going to the bull** and so their calves are at risk. An infected bull may **overwhelm** the immunity from the vaccine. It would have been far worse without vaccination!

What should I do now? **Beef:** Test 6 animals from all groups that have animals in between 10 – 20 months of age.

Dairy: As above plus a bulk milk sample for a PI. This will give us a very good indication if BVD is present on the farm.

If I am negative can I stop vaccinating? At the moment the answer is a definite **no!** In a few years when BVD has been eradicated from the UK then yes. **You don't want to buy this disease in.**

Farewell from James

Just a little note to say thanks to all the farmers and clients that I have met during my time at Trefaldwyn. I have had a happy 6 years in the area with many fond memories. I am moving with my wife and son to Hampshire to be nearer to family. I will be back visiting now and then so hope to see many of you again. Thanks again for your hospitality and banter!

All the best, James