

October 2014

- Autumn is always a relatively quiet time on the vetting front, majority of cattle are still out and the tups have either gone in or are being prepared for tugging time.

Over the last month we have seen an [increase in adult cows coughing](#) as well as [first year grazing young stock](#). This is due to [lung worm](#). Have a [listen](#) to your cows when they are gathered or when they are out grazing.

- There are a [number of factors](#) which influence outbreaks of husk:

1. Lungworm [previously diagnosed](#) on your farm.
2. [Worming regime](#). This may not have allowed the cattle to [build up immunity](#) to lung worm. Alternatively the lung worm may [erupt after a wormer](#) has been applied. Just because an animal has been wormed does not mean it is protected.
3. [Stock management at pasture](#). Adults may seed the pasture with lungworm larvae creating a risk for youngsters.
4. [Replacement stock](#). These may have never seen lungworm in which case they are a huge risk.
5. [Changing climate](#). Warmer wetter autumns allow the larvae to remain on the pastures longer causing outbreaks later in the year.

- [If you are worried then please talk to us at the vets so we can advise you of the best strategy.](#)

Fluke: It can be [difficult to diagnose](#) in the autumn. Remember the clinical signs and control are [different to lungworm / husk](#). With an increase in [triclabendazole resistance](#) (endofluke / tribex / fasinex) we need to work out if our [cattle and sheep really need treating](#) and if so what is the [best product to use and when](#).

1. [Dairy cows](#) for diagnosis are [relatively easy](#) in that we can take a [bulk milk sample](#) and send it off.
 - This will tell us if your cattle have been [exposed this year](#). [Treatment is tricky](#) so please talk to us about it.
2. [Beef cattle](#) are more difficult as we need to take [10 poo samples](#) and have a look under the microscope. This should be done after [housing](#). If you have a [TB test then this is an ideal time](#) for us to get the samples.
 - It may seem a pain but it can save you a fortune both now and in the future
3. [Sheep](#) again [poo samples](#) are of benefit as well as taking a [blood sample](#) to see how the livers are functioning. [Kill sheets from abattoirs](#) are also very useful but need to be interpreted with caution.
 - One condemned liver out of 30 is unlikely to be fluke despite what the kill sheet says.

Ram fertility: Have you had your [tups tested??](#) I am still finding [2 out of 10 tups are infertile!!](#) Owch!!

- These tups look fine but are [lacking in the swimmers department!!](#)

Lame sheep: This is a constant head ache, which we still don't seem to be cracking. This is the time it really hits.

- [Footvax](#) is an excellent product against [footrot](#) but has [limited use against CODD](#).
- [CODD](#) is definitely on the [increase](#) and is a real pain. Please [don't buy it in](#) as you will massively regret it.

On one farm we have [numbered all the sheep](#). We quietly go round them on the field [and id any lame sheep](#). These are then [treated with long acting antibiotics](#). We have got the [lameness down to 3% from 30%](#). This has been done in [conjunction with foot bathing in formalin](#). It has been hard work but very successful.

With [housing being imminent](#) many of you are [vaccinating](#) your cattle with the following:

Rispoval intranasal – ideal for young dairy calves or freshly bought in/ housed calves. [Admin up the nose](#) to get some immunity virtually straight away. Can give [from 1 week old](#). [No booster](#) required but it will last for 3 months.

Bovipast RSP. This [requires 2 doses 4 weeks](#) apart under the skin. This is ideal for [young stock](#) which are to be housed. I would recommend for use in a herd that is BVD or IBR vaccinating, or in a herd which wants to become IBR accredited.

Rispoval 4. For the same group of cattle as Bovipast but in herds which have a BVD and IBR problem and do not vaccinate.

Bovillis IBR: For use in adults which have had an [IBR problem](#) diagnosed. This should be [done at this time](#) of year prior to housing.