

October 2015:

- 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:

- Lungworm **previously diagnosed** on your farm.
- 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.
- Stock management at pasture**. Adults may seed the pasture with lungworm larvae creating a risk for youngsters.
- Replacement stock**. These may have never seen lungworm in which case they are a huge risk.
- 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.

With the lovely weather we are seeing and the poor milk prices an ideal way to **save feed costs is to keep the adult dairy cows and dry cows out for as long as possible**. The only **problem with this is the trade off with either milk yield, fertility or metabolic diseases** such as ketosis or milk fevers.

- For the far off dry cows offer them a further source of feed such as a **round bale of silage**. This will keep that **rumen expanded** keeping **the dry matter intakes up**. The net effect will then be a reduced amount of twists after calving.
- For the milkers offer them some **buffer feed**. **Don't just rely on cake** in the parlour as there will be an **increase in sub acute ruminal acidosis** which not only makes the cows **underperform** but also leads to a **suppressed dry matter intake**. Please talk to us or your nutritionist.

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**.

- 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.
- 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
- 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.

Below is a chart which shows the best products to use depending on time of year with week 1 generally being in the Autumn.

Drug	Age of fluke in weeks													
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Endospec 2 & 10% Zanil / Douvestome <u>Ivomec super</u>										50-70%		80-99%		
Trodax Closamectin							50-90%			91-99%				
Fasinex / endofluke		90-99%		99-100%										

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 footbathing in formalin**. It has been hard work but very successful.

Pneumonia: Don't forget to vaccinate your youngstock prior to housing. It will save you a fortune if you get it right. **Clinical signs of pneumonia cost money and result in a stunted calf for life.**