

October 2016

What are we seeing at the moment?

Cattle; The weather is good and lots of cattle are still out which does unfortunately pose its own problems.

1. **Pneumonia:** We have seen a few cases whilst the cattle are grazing. The **ever changing weather** means that some cattle are more **susceptible**. Start **vaccinating** the youngsters in preparation for housing. Make sure the cattle have been **wormed** for lung worm. If necessary think about **clipping** their backs.
2. **Low milk yields:** Currently grass is producing around **11.6 mj /dry matter / kg of grass** which is relatively low.
 - 1 kg of wet grass is only **14.5% dry matter** the remainder is water.
 - This means **each kg of wet grass** eaten by a cow is producing **1.7 mj**.
 - A Holstein Fresian cow requires **70 mj of energy** to stay alive and **5 mj to produce 1 litre of milk**. At the moment this means she needs to **eat 41 kg of grass just to stay alive** and 3 kg to produce 1 litre of milk. For a 20 litre cow she needs to **eat 101 kg of grass every day!!** Could you pick that with your hand??
 - The wet nature of the grass also means there is **not much structure in the grass** and so the cows are **very loose**. This means an increased risk of **sub-acute acidosis**, meaning more gut upsets and ulcers.
 - The effect of more poo floating about in the milking parlour means **increased risk of high cell counts and e coli mastitis**.

Sheep: Similar problems to the cattle: **1. Pneumonia**. Make sure the ewes and lambs are up to date with **heptavac P**.

Lambs that are not finishing..... This can be on account of:

1. **Worms:** Bring us poo samples; we have not found that many high egg counts this year.
2. **Nutrition :** As for the cattle the poor energy content of the diet means that the lambs are not able to take in enough grass. The poor fibre content means that it is **going through them and the rumen has not got any substance to work on**.
3. **Mineral and vitamin deficiencies.** This seems to be the **most common cause this year**. Iodine and cobalt have been especially low.

Please call us out to check your sheep. This way we can draw up a comprehensive plan to try and maximize their live weight gain.

Cobalt deficiency

This can be bought on by liming the farm.

Clinical signs include:

1. Loss of appetite.
2. Reduced weight gains
3. Dry coat and tight skin.
4. Scouring.

Selenium deficiency

Clinical signs include:

1. New born lambs being weak and unable to stand.
2. Later on lambs can scour and are poor doers.

Copper toxicity.

- Sudden death.

Copper toxicity can be breed specific. It can cause sudden death in growing sheep. The course of action that is chosen needs to be carefully monitored.

Copper deficiency / molybdenum toxicity.

- Growing lambs can show growth retardation
- Poor wool growth and structure.
- Swayback in lambs.

The molybdenum is able to block the copper from being absorbed in the rumen. Unfortunately there is no reliable test for molybdenum in the blood stream and so it can be very difficult to diagnose.

Iodine deficiency

More often associated with sudden death in lambs but recently has shown that in later life lambs can be poor doing and are more susceptible to other diseases ie pneumonia.

There is a new product from Elanco called **Imrestor**

During The Vital 90 Days – the period between drying off and one month after calving – nearly **all dairy cows suffer from an impaired immune system**. This leaves cows more vulnerable to **common transition diseases** like mastitis, metritis and retained placenta.

- Imrestor **restores the Immune system** by increasing the number and function of neutrophils around the time of calving protecting the newly calved cow from these transition diseases.
- Imrestor comes in **preloaded syringes** and the protocol is **two injections per cow**, the first injection 7 days pre calving and the second within 24 hours of calving.
- The licensed claim is a **reduction in clinical mastitis by 26%**.
- Imrestor is not a vaccine or an antibiotic and requires no meat or milk withdrawal.