

September 2015:

- With this wet and humid weather we are seeing the same old problems:

In the cattle:..... a) Increased incidence of mastitis:

1. Summer mastitis being one of the causes. The flies are having a bumper end of season so keep on treating the cows.
2. In fresh calved cows this will be on account of dry cow infection.

Prevention includes: i) Use orbeseal in the drys and beef animals and may be even in the heifers .

ii) Keep the areas around the feed and water troughs as clean as possible and try to move the troughs around.

iii) Any pasture grazed by dry cows should be used for a max of 2 weeks then left for 4 weeks to reduce the bacterial load. This may involve using an electric fence which is still easier than treating lots of cases.

b) Pneumonia in calves. This constantly changing temperature is causing problems.

To prevent: Maximise colostrum intake, minimize moisture and heat loss by keeping beds clean and dry.

- Make sure the calves have access to fresh clean water.
- Vaccinate against BVD / IBR and other causes.

In the sheep:

a) We are seeing increased worm burdens.

- This is the time of year to use a totally different group of wormer such as Zolvix or Startect.
- They do not have any extra persistency nor are they stronger. In other words if you drench with them now the worms may still re occur in 3 weeks' time.
- What is unique about them is that there is no resistance to them. At the moment there is about 80% resistance to white drench, a lower amount to levamisole and around 30% to the clear drench. This resistance may not be obvious, in that the worms will be checked but not reduced to zero. The sheep will be still losing food conversion efficiency. By using these new wormers you are prolonging the development of resistance on your farm and keeping the growth rates of the lambs up.

b) This is the time of year we see sudden death, from either clostridial disease or pneumonia.

- Make sure your lambs are vaccinated asap.

c) We are also taking lots of bloods to assess the Iodine, selenium, copper and cobalt levels.

With the main replacement sheep sales occurring around this time you do not want to be bringing back home disease.

- The following guidelines will help reduce this from occurring.

Resistant worms: Drench with either startect or zolvix and inject with dectomax or cydectin.

- The sheep should be housed for 24hours after drenching and then turned onto a field which has recently had sheep on.

Scab: The above injections will deal with this.

- Don't forget if footvax has been used on these sheep then cydectin 1% can't be used.

Resistant fluke: 2 injections of trodax 6 weeks apart and keep on a low fluke risk field between the 2 treatments.

Footrot: Isolate any lame sheep, if diagnosed with footrot then treat with oxytet long acting and vaccinate the group with footvax. All sheep no matter whether they are lame or not sure be footbathed through either 10% zinc sulphate or 3% formalin. They should be slowly walked through this and then hold on clean dry concrete for ½ hour.

CODD: Observe the sheep carefully for at least 21 days. If ANY show lameness then make sure you know the cause. If it is CODD contact the vets for the best plan of action. YOU REALLY DON'T WANT THIS.

CLA (Caseous Lymphadenitis): Any sheep showing signs of swellings or abscesses in the region of surface lymph nodes (around the jaw, neck and in front of the shoulder) should be tested for CLA.

- None of the group should be allowed contact with the flock until this disease has been ruled out.

Maedi Visna (MV): Blood samples can be taken from adults to identify this disease and prevent its introduction to the flock.

Lice: The treatment for sheep scab by injectable ivermectin will not remove biting lice from the sheep. Any sheep seen to be scratching or pulling wool during the quarantine period should be carefully examined for lice and if necessary treated appropriately before they are mixed with the home flock.

Eye disease: Ovine infectious keratoconjunctivitis is an eye condition that is highly contagious and spread will increase in sheep that are closely handled or stressed. Any indication of watery or inflamed eyes should be investigated and treated appropriately with veterinary consultation before the sheep are mixed with the home flock.

