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LUNGWORM Aka Husk

Due to the warm and wet weather conditions being very favourable for parasites we are likely to see a greater number of outbreaks of lungworm in late summer and early autumn. So please be aware of the following important information:

Animals at risk

- First year grazing cattle in late summer and autumn
- Autumn born beef calves turned out in summer onto pasture
- Adult cattle that have had a drop in immunity due to reduced recent exposure i.e housing for long periods, (intermittent exposure is necessary to create and maintain immunity)
- Purchased cattle that have not been exposed to lungworm in the past
- Heavy stocking densities causing a greater build-up of the parasite on the pasture

Clinical signs

- Widespread coughing within the herd, especially after exercise
- Severely affected animals will show a harsh cough and excessive salivation, they may also stand with their neck and head extended struggling to breathe
- Mortality and secondary infection with bacteria will take place in association with high burdens

Diagnosis

- To be sure of infection drop off a pooled faecal sample from 5-10 animals in the group so we can check if there are larvae in the faeces. Early in the infection some faecal samples may come back negative even though the stock are affected, this is due to the parasite being immature and not producing eggs yet, (parasite must be 3 weeks old to produce eggs.) If we do still suspect lungworm we can use a blood test to confirm infection status

Treatment and control

- Lungworm will be susceptible to all anthelmintics on the market and there are no known cases of resistance. Levacide is our preferred wormer because it paralyses the parasite. This is preferable because in very high burdens if all lungworm die at once they can end up blocking the airways
- When using anthelmintics remember that they should be used strategically in the control of both lung and gut worms. Also bear in mind withholds if treating lactating adult cattle (Eprinex, 0 milk withhold)
- Stock should be treated promptly once a diagnosis has been made to reduce the likelihood of secondary infection or stunted growth
- Huskvac is available to vaccinate prior to turn out of calves, before they have been exposed to larval challenge. If you have had prior issues of lungworm on farm then this would be highly recommended in the future
- Quarantine and treat all bought in cattle to prevent bringing lung and gut parasites onto your farm

New product called **Imrestor**

There is a new product on the market that has been developed by **Elanco**, called **Imrestor**. This introduces a new concept in improving cow health around the time of calving. We recognise that calving is a very stressful time for the cow and there are numerous metabolic and social demands.



Imrestor is not an antibiotic, vaccine or hormone but it is a product that mimics a natural substance released in the face of an infection challenge which sends a signal to the bone marrow to increase the production of specific white blood cells. It comes in the form of an injection and essentially makes the cow more resistant to infections; (mastitis, metritis etc) by temporarily increasing her circulating white blood cells.

Injection regime;

Two injections are required, one approximately seven days prior to expected calving date and the second 24 hours after calving.

Imrestor clinical trials;

We have been given data from five trial sites involving 2465 cows in a variety of climates, under different management regimes and involving both Holstein and Jersey cows. In these trials the cows were injected with either a placebo injection or **Imrestor**. The results showed a 26% reduction in clinical mastitis in those that had been injected with **Imrestor**.

Mastitis reduction is not the only area where **Imrestor** is thought to have a beneficial effect. If a farm is experiencing retained foetal membranes or having a larger number of post calving vulval discharges/metritis then the use of this product has also been recommended.

Our thoughts ?

In principal it looks to be quite a useful product but we know that a number of these problems can be rectified and managed more effectively with good farming practices around the time of calving. We realise the risk of metabolic diseases and the effect that low calcium/energy levels will have on a cow's health and hence we would like to see changes being considered in these areas before we would consider the "sticky plaster" effect of the above. I say this in the knowledge that, although we haven't been given a definite final price, **Imrestor** is not cheap and will retail at around £27.00 for the two injections.

If you have any questions regarding **Imrestor** then please phone the surgery and speak to either lan or Matt.

CHICKEN RED MITES

We would like to urge anyone keeping chickens and turkeys to remain vigilant and look out for signs of Red Mite infestations. These blood sucking parasites can strike any house, at any time, although we see a significant increase in cases in the warm summer months.



It is notoriously hard to notice these mites as during the day time they will hide in any cracks and crevices in the chicken house, the mites will then only come out at night, where-by they infest the birds. The easiest way to monitor whether there are mites present in your chicken house is to use 'Chicken Vet Traps'. The sticky traps are placed strategically within the chicken house and will successfully trap and destroy mites. It can be remarkable to see how many are present. You can also check the birds and you may see these mites under their wings or around their vents. The lifecycle from egg to adult mite is only seven days so it is important to keep checking on a weekly basis.

Low numbers of mites cause irritation and annoyance to the birds making them restless. However, large numbers of mites can suck enough blood to cause severe anaemia resulting in a pale comb and wattle, weakness, dullness, reduced egg production and even death.

In terms of treatment it is important to treat both the birds and the house. We recommend "1% Ivermectin spot-on" or "Mite Powder treatment" for the birds and either "Interkokask" or "Poultry Shield spray" for the house. We stock all these products and encourage you to talk to our Chicken Vets Alice or Matt, for further advice with regards to treatment and control.



GILLINGHAM & SHAFTESBURY AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Motcombe Turnpike Showground SP7 9PL

We would like to thank all of our clients for their continued support over the years by inviting you to join us at the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show!



Alice & Steph look forward to seeing you. Please feel free to bring along friends and family, you can find us at show stand D8, come for a drink, a bite to eat and a good catch up!

Wednesday 17th August 2016 8:30am – 6:30pm