

June 2009



DAMORY VETERINARY CLINIC

Beef Newsletter

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Staff news

TB meeting

Redwater

Lungworm

Myhealthyherd - online health planning

Bluetongue vaccine: Price changes

Bull testing

Organics

Staff news

We welcome Drew McGurren to our busy team who joined the practice just after Easter, bringing the number of farm vets to 5. Drew started his veterinary life in mixed practice, then worked several years as a ministry vet in Sussex before seeking the ultimate adventure by changing his career to farm animal practice at Damory. Drew is keen to re-develop old skills and has the full support and backup of the whole team.

TB meeting

As every single farm talk we do ends in discussing TB, we thought we should have a meeting on TB itself (which will hopefully not end in discussing Bluetongue or swine flu.....!). Some of you will remember our speaker Andy Biggs from a meeting on mastitis we had 3 years ago - he is a past president of the British Cattle Veterinary Association and has the ultimate insight into the science as well as the politics of TB. This background, together with his ability to get his message across in an enthusiastic and entertaining way, will promise a meeting to remember. It will take place on June 24th, 3.30 for 4.00 at the Brewery in Blandford. Invites with reply slips have gone out separately.

Redwater

During May we have seen several cases of Redwater, coinciding with the tick season. The main symptom is red urine due to burst red blood cells. Affected animals can become anaemic and die. A treatment is available as a single injection (Imizol), either as a preventative or therapeutic dose. It has very long milk and meat withdrawal, so if you suspect Redwater please phone us for advice.

Lungworm

We have just found the first case of lungworm this season, so please be alert - any coughing bovine on pasture is a possible lungworm case. Vaccination with Huskvac to prevent it, may be suitable for some of you, clinical cases should be treated with an Ivermectin type wormer or levamisole in severe cases. Apart from severe coughing and death, subclinical disease with mild cough, poor growth and reduced fertility in suckler cows are increasingly seen. Dung and blood samples can be used to confirm disease, please ring us to discuss what's best for you.

Myhealthyherd.com - health planning online

Enclosed is a letter about online herd health planning. We intend to use the new website to streamline disease monitoring, storing lab results etc. For this purpose we will have to transfer clients' details onto a secure website. As mentioned, this step is free of charge to you.

If you would like the full benefit with online access to your lab results, disease status, cost calculator, risk assessment and a dynamic herd health plan, you can subscribe to it at a monthly cost of £15. This covers our subscription and our input in entering and updating your details.

Included in this subscription is the setup and annual review of the herd health plan which meets the requirement of farm assurance.

A subscription form is included separately.

If you just want the herd health plan (without access to the website) we offer it at a cost of £ 120 (per setup and/or annual review).

Bluetongue vaccine - news on pricing

As you may have read in the farming press, Defra is selling vaccine stocks at discounted prices. This has led to a vaccine price war and has upset many of you (and us) who were organised and vaccinated early in the season. We understand we will get a rebate on some of our vaccine ordered since the end of April and we will pass this on to those of you to whom it is applicable. Once again, we would like to congratulate you all on the vaccine uptake. We have achieved close to 100% again this year, a level which is vital in keeping the disease under control.

Bull testing

With the mating season in full swing just a quick reminder that we offer bull fertility testing including semen analysis. Early PDs (from 28-30 days onwards with scanner) can also help to assess fertility of both cows and bulls at a time when measures can be taken.

Organic Discussion Group Meeting

It's time to revive the Organic discussion group and we're planning a meeting at the end of June/early July on the subject of feeding. We'll send invites, with details, to our organic clients in the next few days. If you are bucking the trend and thinking of going organic please let us know and we'll send you an invite as well.