



SEPTEMBER

2016

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In this issue: Upcoming meetings, Suckler PDs, Liver Fluke, New website, Bella's back

Damory Suckler Herd Discussion Group

“Understanding & Using Estimated Breeding Values”

with guest speaker Stephen West from Signet AHDB

7pm Monday 24th October - The Brewery Visitor Centre, Blandford
Hot buffet & drinks to follow

£10 exc. VAT per person (no need to bring cash, can book to farm account)

- Please confirm your attendance to Damory Vets by Friday 21st October & call/e-mail us with any specific questions or topics you would like Stephen to cover ahead of the meeting.
- **Please can all farms bring back their completed benchmarking figures ready for the next meeting in Spring, thank you.**



Fever Tags

For the early detection of pneumonia in calves

Come and see how Fever Tags have helped to reduce pneumonia from 45% to 4% on a local dairy farm.



Midday - Wednesday 26th October Free of charge

Meet at **Worgret Manor Dairy Farm, Worgret, Wareham, BH20 6AB**
with kind permission of the Baggs family. **RSVP to Damory Vets by 24th October.**

- See the fever tags in action
- Live demonstrations on fever tag application & use
- A look at how improvements to feeding & housing have reduced calf disease rates on this farm

Then on to the **Kings Arms, Stoborough** for a hot lunch kindly supported by Merial Animal Health in association with Damory Veterinary Clinic.



PDs FOR BEEF HERDS

We are now entering the optimum time to Pregnancy Diagnose ("PD") Spring calving suckler herds.

Scanning cows **6 weeks** after the bulls were taken out gives us the best opportunity to give you accurate calving dates, enables barren cows to be identified early and managed accordingly, and means that any fertility issues can be quickly rectified.

Call us now to book in your PDs at a time and date to suit.



LIVER FLUKE

The current fluke forecast is low-moderate for the South of England following a drier summer this year, however this could change if conditions become wet and remain mild. So as we head into fluke season here is a reminder of the signs to look out for and tips on preventing this potentially devastating disease:

Clinical syndromes:

We see three different clinical syndromes depending on the number of infective larvae ingested and the timeframe over which ingestion occurs.

The **ACUTE** form tends to occur between **July and December** and can result in **sudden or rapid death** due to mass migration of immature fluke causing severe liver damage & anaemia.

The **SUBACUTE** form tends to occur between **October and January**. Signs include **rapid weight loss, anaemia, fluid under the jaw and a distended abdomen**. This syndrome tends to be caused by a combination of both immature and adult fluke migrating through the liver at the same time.

The **CHRONIC** form tends to be seen between **January and April**. Signs include **progressive weight loss, chronic diarrhoea, mild anaemia and sometimes fluid under the jaw**. This syndrome is due to the presence of the adult fluke within the bile ducts of the liver.

Sheep are most likely to suffer from the acute form and cattle from the sub-acute and chronic forms.

Diagnosis:

- **Abattoir feedback** on the condition of livers is an easy and extremely effective surveillance tool.
- **Post mortem** examination of any acute deaths to check the liver.



- **Faecal samples** can be examined but the parasite must be 8 weeks old in order to produce eggs. This is a useful tool in cattle from December onwards but would be too late to diagnose acute disease in sheep.
- **Blood test** is available for cattle; this test can detect early fluke infection before eggs are present in faeces.
- **Bulk tank milk test** can be used to establish the level of dairy herd exposure & guide whether treatment is necessary.



Treatment and control:

There are several flukicide products available and it is very important that veterinary advice is sought in order to select the most appropriate product for your situation:

Triclabendazole (e.g. Fasinex) is the only product that kills immature as well as adult fluke and its overuse has led to resistance issues in certain areas. The use of this drug should be reserved for situations where treatment / prevention of acute liver fluke infections is required (e.g. high-risk pastures during late summer – Autumn time).

Closantel, clossulon, nitroxylin (Trodx), oxyclozanide (Zanil) and albendazole are all effective against adult fluke only (Nitroxylin and closantel are also effective against late immature fluke stages from 6-8 weeks old). These products should be used to clear chronic fluke infections from December onwards. For lower risk flocks & herds this may be all that is required each year.

Unfortunately many flukicides are combined with wormers (e.g. **Closamectin, Cydectin Triclamox, Ivomec Super, Combinex**). Although there are situations where additional worming is required alongside fluke treatment, a lot of the time it is not (e.g. adult cattle during winter may well need fluke treatment but are highly unlikely to require worming).

Sadly it is all too easy to buy combination products online or from retailers. **We urge you to seek our advice for the most appropriate product to use each time**, which may well turn out to be cheaper!

If you have any suspicions that liver fluke may be an issue in your flock or herd then please get in touch to formulate an individual plan.



New Website!

Please visit our newly refurbished website for details on our services, upcoming meetings, newsletters & other useful info:

www.damoryvets.co.uk



Bella's Back!

Welcome back Bella.

She rejoins the farm team on a part-time basis as a proud new mother!

