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Suspension of Allevinix

In August the Veterinary Medicines Directorate suspended the use of some injectables, including **Allevinix**, which is an anti-inflammatory drug containing **flunixin** that we used regularly. This decision was made after a scientific advisory committee advised that there may be a risk to humans from consuming food from animals treated with these products. The consumer safety risk is very low and no products have been recalled but we will not be able to dispense Allevinix in the future. Alternative options for providing cattle with pain relief / treatment of toxic conditions like E.coli mastitis are:

- **Dinalgen** injection. Available in 100ml bottles. Dose rate 1ml per 50kg in muscle. Withhold Periods: Meat = 2 days, Milk = Nil.
- **Ketofen** injection. Same drug as Dinalgen but available in 250ml bottles. Dose rate 1ml per 33kg in muscle. Withhold Periods: Meat = 4 days, Milk = Nil.
- **Loxicom** injection. Available in 50ml or 100ml bottles. Dose rate 1ml per 40kg under the skin. Withhold Periods: Meat = 15 days, Milk = 5 days.
- **Metacam** injection. Same drug, dosage regime & withhold periods as Loxicom but available in 250ml bottles.

The only remaining product on the market that contains **flunixin** (the same active drug as Allevinix) is **Finadyne Transdermal**: Dose rate 1ml per 15kg pour-on. Withhold Periods: Meat = 7 days, Milk = 36h.

Being an easy-to-administer pour-on product, Finadyne Transdermal is more expensive per dose than the injectable anti-inflammatories listed above. Also, due to the possibility of cross-contamination of non-treated animals through licking/grooming, any treated animals should be kept separate from non-treated animals throughout the withhold period.

For further information on the available anti-inflammatory drugs and which would be most appropriate for your needs please speak to one of our vets.



Planning for Winter Housing

With Autumn upon us, now is the time to make plans for winter housing of cattle.

Calf respiratory disease is multi-factorial, and the risk can be reduced by:

- good building design – housing should be clean, dry and well ventilated
- good colostrum feeding protocol to increase calf immunity
- optimising nutrition
- avoid mixing different ages and groups of calves
- isolating sick calves
- consider using calf pneumonia vaccinations



There are several vaccines available for calf pneumonia and the best strategy for your farm will depend on your system and what pathogens have been found on the farm. Contact us if you would like us to blood test some calves and advise about vaccinations.

Parasite treatments: If liver fluke has been diagnosed on your farm then cattle should be treated in the weeks after housing to remove any flukes that were picked up at pasture. Remember that not all fluke products work against the immature stages, so it is important to get the timing of the treatment right in order to kill as many flukes as possible. For example, oral triclabendazole (Fasinex) should be given 2 weeks after housing to allow flukes to reach the susceptible age of 2 weeks old. Other products, which kill adult fluke, will become more effective if you wait a few more weeks before treating – please ask us for advice. You may also want to give a wormer to clear any infections picked up whilst grazing, but the need for this is best checked by performing a faecal worm egg count.

Red Tractor Herd/Flock Health Plans



We have produced and updated many health plans in recent weeks, including reviewing production data and antibiotic usage in order to meet the new Red Tractor requirements. We have found nearly all our farms have been well below the new National Targets for antibiotic usage which is excellent. It is also great to see many of you embracing the health plan as it is intended - an opportunity to appraise herd/flock health issues and work with us to seek improvements.

If you know that you are due an inspection or your health plan needs updating, we would be very grateful if you could give us as much notice as possible as they take a fair amount of time to complete. We will always aim to have your health plans ready as soon as we can, but to avoid extra stress please don't leave it until the very last minute! Thank you.

New Strep uberis mastitis vaccine available

HIPRA have developed a new Strep uberis mastitis vaccine, the first of its kind, which is now available in the UK. Currently only HIPRA's own trial work on the vaccine is available and we await subsequent independent UK trials to be performed to give us further confidence as to how effective this new vaccine might be. The main findings from HIPRA's trial work (performed on dairy herds in Northern Spain) are as follows:

- Shown to reduce mastitis cases caused by strep uberis by **52.5%**
- Cows that do still get strep uberis mastitis cure more easily with fewer tubes and drop 3 litres less milk than unvaccinated cows.
- Cell counts remain lower and recover quicker in vaccinated cows which get infected with strep uberis.
- Licensed protocol is to give 1st dose 60 days before calving, 2nd dose 21 days before calving, and 3rd dose 15 days after calving. To be repeated each gestation.
- This protocol is not the most practical to administer so they have come up with an alternative protocol which most herds are adopting - this is as follows: Three doses 1 month apart for the whole herd to get started, then a single 6 monthly booster to remain immune. Therefore once up and running the main herd will just need to continue having 6 monthly boosters, with late pregnant replacement heifers needing the three primary doses 1 month apart before joining the herd.
- Dose = 2ml in muscle
- Cost = £6.07 per dose ex. VAT (so not cheap but if it performs according to HIPRA's trial work it may be worth serious consideration on herd with moderate-high levels of strep uberis mastitis – typically herds which house in loose straw yards.



HIPRA currently have limited availability of the vaccine in the UK until the Spring. Therefore if you are interested in using this vaccine and HIPRA have enough available, they will reserve you enough doses to complete the herd's primary course, which will take you through to Spring when availability will no longer be a problem.

If you think this vaccine may benefit your herd and want to know more about it please speak to Matt at the surgery.

National Johnes Management Plan: Reminder

We would like to remind all our dairy clients who are supplying purchaser members of the NJMP that your declaration of compliance (purple form) needs to be signed by both you and your vet and submitted by 31st October to your milk buyer. This is to confirm that you have liaised with us and completed/updated the 3 required elements of your Johnes Control Plan:

1. Risk assessment carried out with your vet
2. Appropriate level of herd testing performed (whole herd milk screening / targeted 30 cow screens / etc)
3. Written Johnes Disease Management Plan in place.



Staff News

We welcome Laura Sage, our new farm vet, who joined the team at Damory in mid-August. Many of you will have already met her on visits, or at the Gillingham and Shaftesbury show where she joined us on the stand.

Congratulations to Adrian and his family on their new baby girl born in August! Due to his new family commitments Adrian is sadly leaving us for a job nearer to home in Yeovil. He has enjoyed his time at Damory and working with many of you on farm. We wish him all the best for the future and will be advertising for a new Adrian over the coming weeks!



Alpaca Evening: Thursday 4th October

We would like to remind our camelid clients that we are holding an evening meeting on the 4th October where we will be joined by Claire Whitehead, the UK's only vet recognised as an RCVS Specialist in Camelid Health & Production! This is a rare opportunity to benefit from Claire's wealth of alpaca knowledge and experience, so we hope you are able to join us. Please ring the surgery on **01258 452626** to book your place.

7pm Thursday 4th October

£30 per person (includes hot dinner buffet)

Venue = Longthorns Farm, Wareham, BH20 6HH - next to Monkey World.

