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Testing for Worms and Lungworm

As we are well into the grazing season we are currently trying to advise farmers on worming regimes. Part of this is to determine whether animals actually require worming and we can do this by means of performing a worm egg count on faecal samples submitted. We can also look for the presence of lungworm larvae in the same samples. We have found in the past that lungworm can be very prevalent in first lactation animals and this will cause a severe reduction in production figures, not only in milk yield but also fertility figures.

We obtain the most accurate results by pooling samples collected from 10-15 individuals.

The cost of performing a worm egg count on faeces is £8.33 + VAT.

The cost of a lungworm test is £25.00 + VAT.

The cost of performing both is £32.00 + VAT.



TB Testing regimes

As many of you know, we like to use the TB test as an opportunity to take blood samples from different management groups of cattle to determine the disease status of animals in your herd. We can sample up to 10 animals and test for the presence of Leptospirosis, and test up to six animals for the presence of BVD and IBR. This can be done on a "BeefCheck" scheme run by MSD, where they will pay for the lab fees, but there will be a small fee for taking the bloods and the postage and packaging of the samples to the lab. We have a set fixed fee of £20.00 plus VAT.



Vet Visits to Increase Flock Productivity

As we rapidly approach the beginning of the production year now is the best time to start planning ahead for the future season. To do this it is helpful to look back at the previous year's production figures and disease history. By discussing flock health, examining rams and testing for metabolic imbalances we can hopefully help to identify and thus avoid anything that may compromise the fertility and health of the breeding stock this year, and in doing so aim to maximise the future flock productivity and increase profit returns.

Please contact us at the practice to discuss booking in a visit. Key focus areas are as follows:



Update flock health plan.

It is important to specifically tailor each flock health plan to meet each individual farms requirements. We will assess previous lambing results and use these to discuss changes if required to avoid repeat problems. By looking at last year's flock health we can put in place robust preventative health measures to limit further losses and control problem diseases. Now is the time to update vaccination plans and order in vaccines before high risk periods. For example pre-breeding Enzovax and Toxovax should be given 4 weeks prior to tupping. Now is the time to start thinking about a primary vaccination program for Footvax. There are several different

Clostridial vaccines available, a suitable selection should be discussed and timings planned with your vet.

Ram fertility examination.

We recommend an early pre-breeding examination of all rams. Very few rams are completely infertile, but up to 30% of rams may be sub-fertile. Valuable time and money could be lost if problems are not identified. It will take these sub-fertile rams longer to serve fewer ewes. Our assessments include; measuring scrotal diameter, testicular palpation, penis, feet and teeth examination and if necessary semen collection and examination. These simple tests can help make decisions as to whether a ram is suitable for use and if so how many ewes he should run with.



Late summer metabolic profiles

Testing Albumin and Globulin protein levels and Trace elements including; Selenium, Copper and Vitamin B12 in the pre-breeding season will indicate whether ewes and rams are in optimum condition for mating and whether trace element and disease problems are affecting growth rates of weaned lambs. Ewes, rams and weaned lambs should be sampled groups of 5 – minimum.

What happened to Schmallenberg Virus?

Researchers at the University of Liverpool are planning to find out if Schmallenberg virus is still circulating in the South of England. If you would like to take part in the study please contact Jessica Stokes via email at: j.stokes@liv.ac.uk or telephone: 0151 794 6036. The team will then contact you, to blood sample yearling lambs to see if they have antibodies virus.

If you own sheep in Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Hampshire, Sussex or Kent; have more than 30 in the flock; your flock have not been SBV vaccinated and have at least 12 sheep born October 2014 – April 2015.



Cattle Foot Trimming Course

Ian is organising a foot trimming course, for all those interested this will take the format of a lecture session at the practice where we will discuss;

1. The important aspects of hoof health and how we can improve this on our farms.
2. The theory behind the 5 step trimming method as adhered to by all registered foot trimmers
3. The role of mobility scoring on the farm.
4. The cost of lameness and how this will impact on your farm business.

The session will start at 10.30am and run through to 2.30pm. Lunch will be included. The second part of the course will be on your own farm, and this will be a practical session where we will be going through the five steps as discussed.

The cost of the course will be £295.00 + VAT. Please call the practice to register your interest.

Meetings - Dates for the diary

Making the Most of Low Milk Price – Matt Burge

Wednesday 9th September. 7pm. The Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton, DT11 8RX.

Practical Calving Workshop and Care of the Downer Cow – Alice Wilkinson & Matt Burge

Wednesday 7th October. 7pm. Longthorns Farm, Wareham, BH20 6HH. (Next to Monkey World)

We wish Bella well as she goes on maternity leave and look forward to news of her new arrival! We would like to welcome and introduce her replacement Ben South, who has recently qualified from the RVC. He is interested in all aspects of farm work as well as game birds & poultry medicine.