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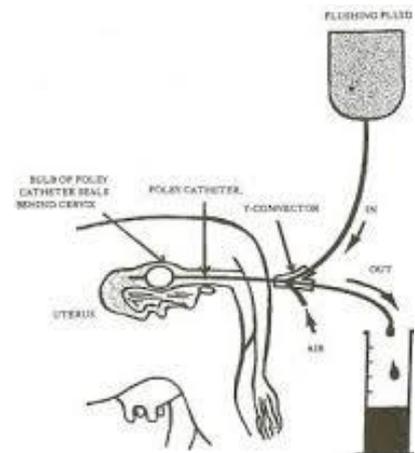
**In this issue: Uterine Flushing for Repeat Breeder Cows, Bluetongue update, New Products available, A Two-Headed Calf.....!**

## Uterine Flushing Technique for Repeat Breeder Cows

We have all experienced those cows that, for no apparent reason, fail to fall pregnant despite regular heats and no obvious vaginal discharge. What we have been trying on one of our dairies is to use a uterine flush; specifically washing out the uterine horns individually under epidural anaesthetic, with a specific flush solution that we are hoping to use in our embryo work.

So far the results have been very good with a 40% pregnancy rate to the first service following this flush. This was performed on cows that had been calved 200+ days and had several services. I would think that it would be more cost effective to try this on cows that have failed to hold for the 3<sup>rd</sup> or maybe 4<sup>th</sup> time as this will mean that the calving to conception interval is not unnecessarily long.

The cost of the procedure is £45.00 per flush and is ideally performed one week before a routine visit. This will allow us to administer an injection of Receptal at the time of the flush (this will only be done only if we have a decent CL on one of the ovaries). An injection of estrumate can then be administered at the routine, provided the CL is still present, followed with an injection of Receptal (administered by you) 56 hours after the estrumate, and a fixed time insemination 16 hours after that.



If any of you would like to discuss what is involved with this procedure then speak to Ian Patton.

# Bluetongue

## HIGH RISK OF BLUETONGUE RETURNING THIS SUMMER....

The UK has remained free of Bluetongue since its successful eradication in 2008, however Bluetongue serotype 8 (the same strain that caused the 2007/8 outbreak) has recently re-emerged in France with a few hundred confirmed cases.

Bluetongue is a notifiable viral disease affecting sheep, cattle, goats & camelids and is spread by biting midges. Goats and camelids rarely show signs of the disease.

### How to Spot Bluetongue:

Sheep - *Worst affected & most likely to show clinical signs:*

- Ulcers in the mouth
- Drooling from mouth and nose
- Swelling of the mouth, head and neck and the coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)
- Red skin, fever, lameness & breathing problems may be seen.



Cattle - *Most infected cattle do not show signs of the disease, however they are the main carriers of bluetongue and herd production losses have been associated with bluetongue infection. Other signs can include:*

- Swelling and ulcers in the mouth
- Nasal discharge
- Red skin and eyes
- Swollen teats



### Current Risk Level:

Disease models predict there to be a 60-80% chance that Bluetongue could enter southern England later this summer, with the first cases likely to be seen from July onwards. This is highly dependent on weather conditions and wind patterns however.

### What should we be doing about it?

1. **Be vigilant** over the coming months and report to us any animals showing signs suspicious of Bluetongue.
2. **Consider vaccination.** This was the key to eradication in 2008 where excellent uptake of the vaccine across southern England led to the rapid eradication of the disease. **Unfortunately the vaccine will not be available until August; we will notify you as soon as it is available.**
3. **Use insecticides** to help reduce the risk of your stock being bitten by midges. Swish (cattle only), Flypor (cattle only) and Spot-On (cattle & sheep) are all pour-on insecticides. They are fairly effective in cattle but less effective in sheep. Insecticides will not prevent all midge bites, they only help to reduce them and slow the spread of Bluetongue. Therefore CONTROL OF BLUETONGUE CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY ACHIEVED BY VACCINATION.

# New Products Available



## Velactis

A brand new drug designed to be given to high-yielding cows at dry-off to reduce udder engorgement, milk leaking and improve cow comfort after dry-off. Trials demonstrated that cows treated with Velactis at dry-off were:

- 81% less likely to leak milk
- 21% less likely to pick up an intramammary infection during the dry period
- Laid down for 2.5 hours longer than untreated cows on day 1 after dry-off due to improved udder comfort.

To be effective Velactis must be given immediately after the last milking. The dose is a 5ml intramuscular injection per cow. It comes in 25ml bottles or 5x5ml individual vials.

## Bovocycline pesseries

These are oxytetracycline-containing antibiotic pesseries licenced for intra-uterine use. The antibiotic remains at high concentration within the uterus helping prevent infection developing post-calving. There is a 4 day milk withhold hence we see this product being used immediately after calving where assistance has been required or following the birth of a dead / decaying calf or abortion. Pesseries should be placed between the internal wall of the uterus and the foetal membranes.



The iodine pesseries we have been using are useful for treating uterine infections immediately after cleansing removal as they have a nil milk withhold.



## TAF Spray

A new antibiotic spray on the market which, according to trial work, is very effective at treating digital dermatitis.

The antibiotic in it is Thiamphenicol.

Recommended application procedure for digital dermatitis; ensure that the area is clean, I generally tend to scarify the area so that it bleeds slightly, and spray the area depressing the nozzle for 3 seconds. Re-apply after 24 hours.

### Colostrum substitute powders available

We are stocking two types of colostrum replacement powder both supplied by vetsonic: One comes in a plastic bottle and is called **immucol** and the other is in a foil sachet and is called **immucol platinum**.



The immucol platinum has a much higher level of antibodies and can be used as a complete colostrum replacement where it is impossible to obtain colostrum from any other source. The standard immucol (in the milk container) is useful to supplement newborn calves that have been born to heifers or have received poorer quality or insufficient colostrum.



## The weird and wonderful....



Matt expresses his surprise when he delivered a two-headed calf via caesarean section earlier this month!

This most likely occurred due to the ball of cells that form the head splitting into two during early embryonic development – a rare freak event!

The strange arrival also drew the attention of its father the other side of the gate...

