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Ascaris suum in Pigs

Ascaris suum is a giant roundworm that affects pigs in the UK. It is a common parasite and is particularly associated with pigs living outside. Infections can lead to "milk spot" lesions on livers and the damage done can inhibit growth rates.



Researchers at The University of Surrey are interested in this parasite as the diagnostic laboratory test that is currently available is not accurate and can miss infections. They have hopefully developed a better option, but in order to validate this more advanced test they need to carry out final comparison tests. They have written to us as they require submission of pig faecal samples in order to do this. They are approaching all pig owners in the UK to invite you to take part in their research project.

The study is voluntary and confidential and there are no obligations once you have signed up. If you would like to find out more or to take part then please contact us at Damory. We have been supplied with further information and the packs you will need with instructions and sample collection kits.

The sample taking is simple, you just need to collect up to 16 fresh pig faecal samples, preferably including from where younger pigs are kept if you have breeding pigs, collect from different pens or pasture locations if applicable and follow the instructions to send them to the University. You will be given notice of your individual results, but of course results will be anonymised in the published study.



Please let us know if you are interested.

Calf Pneumonia

Why worry? As we approach winter we are experiencing fluctuating temperatures and changeable weather conditions. Once cattle are housed they are further exposed to environmental stressors such as drafts, high humidity levels and damp that will all challenge calf immunity and increase the risk of pneumonia.



Disease Concerns: Respiratory bacterial infections caused by *Mannheimia haemolytica* (Pasteurella) and viruses including RSV, PI3, IBR and BVD as well Mycoplasma will cause disease and even if animals recover from the infection the lasting damage done to the lungs will impact upon long term growth rates.

(Image of an infected lung; 2/3rds of this tissue is diseased.)

At this time of year we often end up treating large groups of calves with antibiotics, and whilst this may save lives, the damage is often already done. By the time you hear coughing calves the disease can be well established. We are trying to reduce the use of antibiotics on farm and strongly encourage prevention of such diseases that inflict huge economical strain on your farm businesses.

So what can we do to help? We would like to draw up a youngstock health plan that is tailored to your individual farm, it will discuss in detail the following aspects;

Colostrum management;

- Quality, quantity, timeframe
- Storage of colostrum
- Artificial colostrum to feed if none available

Calf feeding post 24 hours;

- Avoiding underfeeding of milk which is a common mistake
- How to introduce solids and fibre into the diet
- Weaning protocols

Calf housing;

- Aid in identifying the positives and weaknesses of your calf housing and ways to amend these. Assessing draughts, quality of air flow and discussing the use of individual versus group housing

Diagnostics;

- Blood sampling 1-5 day old calves to assess colostrum transfer
- Blood sampling/swabs to determine cause of respiratory disease



Often simple, inexpensive tweaks to feeding regimes and housing design can make a lot of difference. We encourage you to contact us at the practice to discuss your individual needs further.

Respiratory vaccine news

Bovipast RSP is an MSD vaccine which is used to protect against the viruses PI3, RSV and the bacteria *Mannheimia Haemolytica* (Pasteurella). The course requires two injections administered 4 weeks apart with the first injection given at 2 weeks of age. Protection is complete 10-14 days following the second injection. The vaccine is available on a buy one get one free basis and therefore the whole course will cost £6.50 per calf.

Lambing help required?

If you haven't received this week's National Sheep Association's newsletter you may well be interested in the following notification.



"Are you looking for student help this lambing time?

NSA's Lambing List 2016/17 is now open for business,

aiming to connect members looking for help at lambing time with vet and

agricultural students looking for work experience placements. We'll be opening

the list to students in the coming weeks, once a good number of adverts have been submitted.

Adverts are published in date order, with those submitted earlier being nearest the top, so be sure

to get yours in sooner rather than later. If you'd like to place an advert, simply follow the steps

at www.nationalsheep.org.uk/lambing-list."



Staff News: Alice's Dairy Heifer Research Project

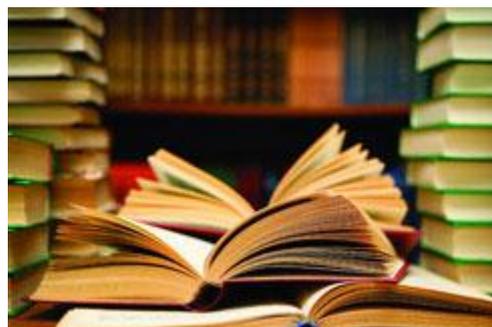
Alice has started her Diploma in Bovine Reproduction (DBR) at Liverpool University.

The postgraduate course is the equivalent of a Master's degree and I am excited to be given the opportunity to study over the next two years, whilst continuing to work full time.

I will be expected to submit course work for each module as well as embark on a research project for my dissertation.

I am starting my research project and looking for volunteers to participate. If you are breeding dairy heifers and would be interested in finding out more **please contact me at the**

practice on 01258 452626 or email directly to alice@damoryvets.co.uk – please do, I hope the project should not impact hugely upon what you are otherwise doing, and I hope the information collected will prove very useful in terms of how we approach certain management practices. I look forward to furthering my own knowledge in this specialised area of cattle practice and hope our clients too will benefit from this up to date information, whilst informing you of changes occurring at the forefront of the industry.



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