

May 2010



DAMORY VETERINARY CLINIC

Sheep Newsletter

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Nematodirus Alert

Bluetongue

A New Wormer and SCOPS (Sustainable control of parasites in sheep)

A New Treatment for Coccidiosis

Flies

The grass is finally growing, although slowly, and this newsletter is mainly focused on parasites and their control.

Nematodirus alert

Very recently Veterinary Investigation Centres in the South and Midlands began to record cases of Nematodirus causing diarrhoea and death in lambs. This is earlier than seen in some years and probably due to the weather conditions over the winter and early spring.

Disease is typically seen in lambs, usually aged 6 to 12 weeks of age. The most important risk factor for disease occurring is grazing lambs on the same pasture as lambs in previous years (nematodirus eggs are known to survive for 2 years), or on ground that dairy calves have grazed, as they have also been shown to cycle the infection.

Faecal egg counts (done in our lab with same or next day results) can diagnose Nematodirus accurately. Please ask us for details.

NO anthelmintic resistance has been detected in nematodirus to date and benzimidazoles (white drenches) remain the treatment of choice. However, if other parasite species are present in which white drench resistance is more likely, then it is advised to check for worm eggs again 10-14 days after treatment.

Bluetongue

Please remember that it is time to vaccinate your stock against Bluetongue. Sheep require a single dose of 1ml from 1 month of age.

A new wormer and SCOPS (Sustainable control of parasites in sheep)

For the first time in almost 30 years a new class of wormer is on the market. Zolvix, made by Novartis, adds a fourth group of wormer to the traditional ones of white (benzimidazoles), yellow (levamisole) and clear drenches (ivermectins and cydectin). If used wisely, Zolvix has the potential to be a great breakthrough in slowing down or preventing the development of wormer resistance. There are already farms in this country with resistance against all three traditional groups.

However, if overused or used in the wrong way, resistance against Zolvix may only be a question of time, and therefore the manufacturer and the veterinary profession recommend a targeted use only and to integrate it into a sustainable worm control programme, based on SCOPS guidelines.

To discuss these issues in more detail, please contact us. We will also be holding a meeting on Zolvix and SCOPS on Thursday, June 3rd, in the Brewery Visitor Centre in Blandford. Please call us or fill in the enclosed invite – we expect a lively discussion!



A new treatment for coccidiosis

Baycox Sheep is a new, very effective treatment and prevention for coccidiosis in lambs. A single drench has good persistent activity, and our experience with the cattle and sheep product has been positive.

Again, it is VERY important to diagnose the cause of diarrhoea and poor growth rates, as at this time of the year it may be coccidia, nematodirus or other worms (or even other causes), and faecal egg counts are the cheapest and best way to enable a targeted prevention and treatment regime.

We are eagerly waiting for faeces!

Flies

Due to the late spring not many around yet – long may it continue!

Just a reminder of the methods of fly strike prevention

- Prevent diarrhoea (worm and coccidia control – see above)
- Tail docking and dagging (Tail docking with rings is legal without anaesthetic within 7 days of life)
- Insect growth inhibitors – Clik and Vetrazin. Both products only PREVENT fly strike, neither of them treats any established fly infestation. They are the longest acting and least toxic products and therefore the first choice for prevention.
- Insecticides (Crovect, spot on etc) prevent and treat fly strike, but their persistency is far less than that of Clik or Vetrazin.

Please call us for advice about the measures suitable to your flock.