



Coombefield Veterinary Hospital Farm Newsletter February 2016

Vaccine Compliance

A pretty boring subject we know, but curiously surprisingly important. A recent survey of farmers found that only 24% were using BVD vaccine correctly! The consequence of this is that they may not be protected against BVD as they assumed.

As this year's vaccination season is up on us we thought it would be useful to run through the reasons for non-compliance, as they apply to all vaccines.

If you are unsure about any aspect of vaccine usage please give us a ring or refer to the data sheet.

- 1)** *Using the wrong dose*
- 2)** *Wrong route of administration*
- 3)** *Incorrect interval between the 2 primary doses*
- 4)** *Too long an interval between boosters*
- 5)** *Incorrect storage of vaccine particularly when using the vaccine. Don't take more vaccine out of the fridge that you need, especially when the outside temperature is above 8c*
- 6)** *Potential for contamination of vaccine, eg a dirty needle*
- 7)** *Vaccination of sick animals (sick cows may not respond to the vaccine)*
- 8)** *Use of out of date vaccine*

Digital Dermatitis and teat and udder lesions

Having problems with sores on teats and bleeding, infected areas on the udder? If so, it could be due to digital dermatitis. When a cow lies down her feet are just tucked under her udder. When there is an infection in the skin at the back of the feet the treponemes (bacteria) can start to spread to the skin of the udder and teats, especially if there are any abrasions or small cuts in the udder skin already. Once the infection gets onto the udder the lesions can spread quickly and become so painful it can cause a cow to lick her teats so excessively they may even bite them off. If the lesions are at the front of the udder and spread forward, this can get dangerously close to the large milk vein. If you are seeing any of these symptoms on your cows or if you have several lame cows in the herd, please make sure you are foot bathing regularly and speak to us for advice on control and treatment. With the very damp warm conditions this winter every dairy farmer should be foot-bathing their cows and even the beef suckler herds should look at whether a footbath is needed.

Breeding cows resistant to TB – Sounds like a good idea!

University of Edinburgh have developed a new genetic index, called TB Advantage, which allows us to get an idea of how well an animal's genetics make the animal more resistant to catching TB. By selecting bulls that have a better resistance to TB farmers will be able to breed a herd more resilient against TB. This genetic improvement will accumulate over the generations producing long term benefits in the control against TB. Unfortunately this will only play a small part of the long term control against TB and biosecurity is still the most important method of reducing the TB risk. This index however is at least another tool for us to help eradicate TB. Cattle with genetics that make them more prone to getting the disease can at least be identified and not used for future breeding.

Congratulations to Roger

Roger and his partner Susie had a baby girl Lexie Grace, Lexie and Susie are doing really well.

Roger will be taking two weeks paternity leave at the beginning of February.



Calving Workshop

Thank you to everyone who attended the calving workshop this week at Higher Hampton Farm. With help from a bull calf and a blindfold everyone hopefully got to realise the importance of using a head rope! Thank you to John and Ben Williams for letting us use their lovely calving pens.

Lambing Workshop

Yet again, we had a very successful Lambing Workshop at Summerleaze in January. Thank you very much to all those who attended.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Understanding Cocci in Calves & Lambs

Wednesday 2nd March 2016

starts at 7.30pm

at

The Meeting Room,
Coombeville Veterinary Hospital,
Coombe Lane, Axminster EX13 5AX

Please RSVP by Friday 26th February 2016

Please call 01297 630515 or email

farm@axvets.co.uk



www.facebook.com/coombevillefarmdepartment

FARM DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

If you would like to speak to a Farm vet or arrange a visit, please call 01297 630515

Medicines can be requested via email or by telephone

Email: farm@axvets.co.uk