

Newsletter April 2011

Turnout is now in full thrust with plenty of early grass growth. Be aware on cold or stormy nights of the risk of Grass Staggers, we have recently seen a few cases in lactating cattle.

We have recently taken the decision to change several of the products that we hold in stock. We have for some time now been using Engemycin spray, this is a new design that gives superior drying speed and the ability to use the can upside down! We have also moved away from Nuflor mini dose to a product called Florgane. This has a similar dose rate but is a suspension rather than a clear solution. When shaken it is easier to syringe especially in cold weather! It also has the advantage of being considerably cheaper. The other product we have chosen to change is Excenel. We have chosen an exact replica called Ceftiocyl, again this represents a significant financial saving. If you have any questions on these changes I will be happy to try and answer them.

Don't forget our Cattle Lameness meeting, again this meeting forms part of the South West Healthy Livestock Initiative, that offers 70% funding towards advice and planning to reduce the incidence of lameness on your farm. It will be held on 19th April at 12.00, at Redhill. Please call Redhill to book your place.

We are regularly getting asked about whether or not to vaccinate for Blue Tongue this year. Our advice has to be yes. The risk of disease arriving is still a real one, although maybe a lower one than previously. Manufacturers of vaccine have only produced a small volume, this would rapidly disappear if blue tongue arrives. It may well pay to be safe than sorry, prioritizing higher value stock or breeding animals may be one compromise.

Resistance to wormer is becoming a bigger problem on many farms, often without recognition. Do you ever think to yourself this wormer doesn't work as well as it used to? If so then it could be a problem and warrants investigation. All we need is a dung sample before and after worming, preferably in the summer months when worm challenge is at its peak. If there is less than an 80% kill rate then this is unacceptable and a change in worming strategy is urgently required.

We welcome Edna back from her maternity break this month; it will be good to have her back in the team.