

Christmas jumper winner 2019

Thank you for your continued support and it was nice to see so many of you at our Christmas drinks. The prestigious annual award for best Christmas jumper was presented to Bob Salthouse for a double layer effect! Well done Bob—sterling effort.

Special mention for Pete Holden too who missed the official judging but would definitely have been a contender!

SCABIVAX IS AVAILABLE

We have good supplies of scabivax available for this lambing season. It is available on next day delivery (for orders Mon-Thurs, Fri orders come on Monday).



MEDICINE SUPPLY ISSUES

We are still experiencing some difficulties with supplies from certain factories in Europe. There appears to be manufacturing problems on several lines which has meant recall or unavailability of several products. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you are unsure of alternatives.

Now may be a good time to review your commonly used products. If you wish to discuss your treatment protocols please phone to organise a free phone consultation with one of the vets—this document can be used in your Red Tractor Health Plan to aid compliance.

Contact numbers

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Newsletter

January 2020



Dates for your diary:

Friday 17th January 2020 - Flock Health Club meeting

12-2pm at Green Lane Surgery

'Ewe nutrition: before, during and after lambing'

By popular request Debby Brown MRCVS (Dugdales) is returning to discuss ewe requirements.

Bring your own questions or email beforehand.

Lunch & refreshments provided as usual—book now!

Monday 20th January 2020—Medicines course for Red Tractor compliance

Suitable for dairy, beef & sheep farmers

£75 (£50 for additional attendees from same farm)

12—2pm at Green Lane West, Garstang

Book now to ensure your place—lunch provided

'A local practice committed to delivering outstanding service'



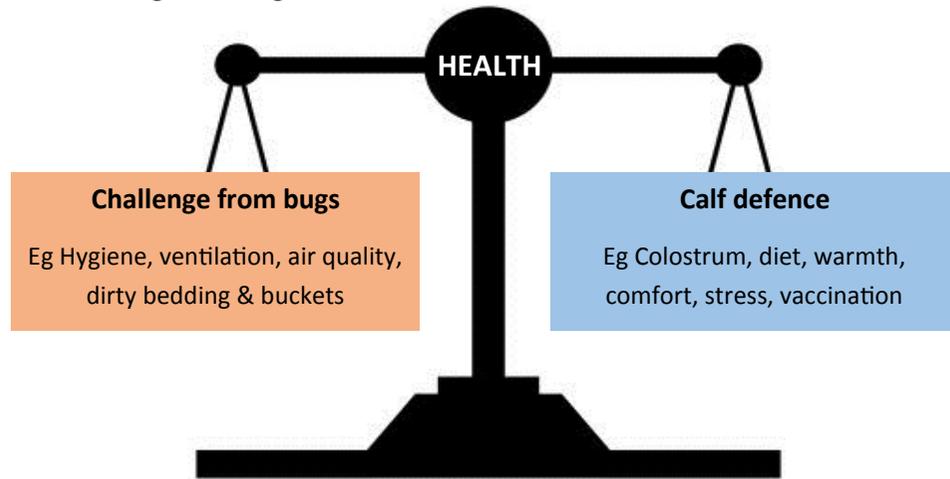
Green Lane Vet Centre, Garstang PR3 1PR Tel: 01995 602468

Focus on calf health this winter to improve health and profit

Scour and pneumonia are the 2 main causes of death in calves—both are far too common and can be reduced. Not only can they cause death, they can result in permanent damage to surviving calves rendering them less productive for the remainder of their lives.

Calf disease occurs as a result of imbalance between challenge to the calf and its ability to resist disease.

When challenge outweighs defence, disease occurs:



Reducing challenge

Attention to detail of cleanliness and quality of environment will reduce challenge. Keeping young calves in a separate air space from older calves and cows reduces exposure to bugs. Good ventilation (without draughts) and avoiding overstocking will improve air quality.

Whilst major changes to building design are often prohibitively expensive it is often possible to achieve great improvements with small changes. Consider wind direction, stocking density and air flow—this is the direction that airborne bugs would travel in. Draughts at calf level reduce the calves' ability to fight disease—place wind breaks or move pens. Calf jackets are essential with temps below 10°C.

Scour bugs usually enter orally so check your buckets & bedding cleanliness. If they are eating straw off the floor try giving them forage in easily accessible racks to avoid faecal contamination.

It is always good practice to remove sick animals from communal pens to prevent spread of bugs. A hutch or separate pen with separate airspace can be invaluable.

Calf defence

Colostrum is the key to calf immunity. 3-4L of good quality colostrum fed within 6 hours of birth and repeated within 12h is essential to provide your calves with the necessary antibodies to deal with normal levels of environmental challenge.

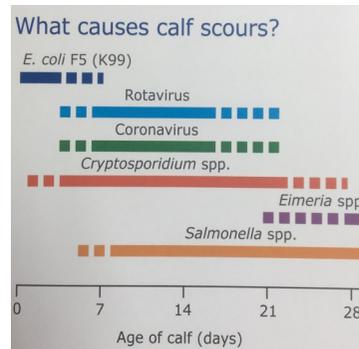
Providing a warm, comfortable environment with an adequate diet will allow the calf to develop its own immune responses. A cold, underfed and stressed calf will succumb to disease at much lower challenge levels.

Vaccination boosts calf immunity. Although not always the answer by itself (calves need to be able to mount an immune response) vaccination can be invaluable.

If you experience high levels of calf problems on your farm please get in touch—it is not something we should accept. And blaming the weather is not sufficient: we always get weather—year in, year out!

Bovigen scour vaccine

Boost the dam's natural ability to protect her young with this broad spectrum scour vaccine. A convenient and flexible vaccination schedule can reduce the infection pressure in the herd if your calving period puts pressure on your buildings



Bovigen scour vaccine covers against rotavirus, coronavirus and enteropathogenic E coli F5 (K99) and can be useful alongside good hygiene to reduce scours in young calves. It boosts the antibodies in colostrum to provide passive immunity to calves.

Vaccination reduces the severity of diarrhoea and shedding of rotavirus and coronavirus thereby reducing levels in the environment too.

Straight forward dosing regime: 3ml intramuscular dose 12-3 weeks prior to calving. Subsequent years a single booster shot 12 to 3 weeks before calving is sufficient.



Protection of calves depends on adequate ingestion of vaccinated cow colostrum.