

Drug supply issues

Unfortunately as a result of manufacturing problems in European factories there are a significant number of medicines unavailable for several months. We have sourced alternatives for them via alternative manufacturers. Please bear with us with all the name changes during this period.

The drugs affected are: Norodine, Tylan, Tylucyl, Betamox Long Acting and Adrenacaine. At the time of writing we are waiting for the Norodine alternative to arrive and have good supplies of the other alternatives so there is no need to panic buy.

Leptavoid H is back in stock (see article inside).

Enzovax is still out of stock but we have an alternative (Cevac) which is exactly the

New sheep scab blood test

There is a new blood test available to detect antibodies to sheep scab mite. Antibodies are detectable from 2 weeks after a sheep has been infested with mites, before clinical signs become apparent.

This is a useful test for introduced animals before they mix with the flock or before flock blanket preventative treatments to determine if they are necessary (potentially saving time, money and reducing the resistance risk). Flock or group screening provides more accuracy than individual animal—12 samples from a group of up to 2000 sheep is optimum.

Please ask for more details if this is something you would find useful for your flock. Better still join the flock health club and come to our next meeting where we will discuss further.



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Newsletter

October 2019

Dates for your diary:

11th November 2019 — Medicines course for Red Tractor compliance

Suitable for dairy, beef & sheep farmers
£75 (£50 for additional attendees from same farm)
12.30-2.30pm at Green Lane West, Garstang
Book now to ensure your place—lunch provided

16th December 2019—Medicines course for Red Tractor compliance

Suitable for dairy, beef & sheep farmers
£75 (£50 for additional attendees from same farm)
12.30-2.30pm at Green Lane West, Garstang
Book now to ensure your place—lunch provided

Medicines course & health plan requirements—on farm option

All dairy farms and farm assured beef and sheep farms now require an annual veterinary health plan and attendance at a medicines course for red tractor accreditation. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you are not yet sorted for either.

We are running medicines courses in November & December at our Green Lane Surgery. If you have multiple staff and would prefer an on farm course (1.5-2 hours) so all staff can attend we are happy to organise this. It could be cost effective and more useful—the plan can then be bespoke to your treatment regimes. We just charge for time as per a normal visit. This compares to the £75 attendance at one of the organised courses (£50 for additional staff). The only difference is we provide lunch & refreshments at our surgery (but if you ask nicely we can bring some cake & biscuits to your farm...)



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LEPTOSPIROSIS –IS YOUR HERD PROTECTED?

Following manufacturing problems with Leptavoid H earlier this year we are pleased to inform you that stock is now available again.

I have included a little bit of information on Leptospirosis as it is a disease we probably haven't thought too much about in recent years. Widespread vaccination has reduced the numbers of carrier animals and environment contamination, resulting in very low levels of clinical disease. In the absence of immunity from vaccination it is likely this devastating disease will begin to creep up.

58% of non-vaccinating dairy farms and 22% of non-vaccinating beef farms test positive for exposure to leptospirosis

In the UK, two strains have been identified- *Leptospira interrogans* serovar hardjo and *Leptospira borgpetersenii* serovar hardjo. In some cases, the effects of leptospirosis can be dramatic. For example, in a leptospirosis outbreak in Ayr, 12 cows from a herd of 160 experienced a sudden onset drop in milk production.

In many cases, however, the underlying effects can go un-noticed but cause huge financial losses. These may include reduced milk yield, reduced fertility, weak calves and an increase in abortions.

Leptospirosis also infects people, with cattle farmers at particular risk from the urine of infected cattle. This may result in protracted flu-like symptoms and, in rarer cases, liver and kidney failure.

Vaccination remains an important control measure and continues to be effective at reducing the incidence of clinical disease and the risk of infection. Leptavoid®H is the UK's leading leptospirosis vaccine and the only one licensed to protect against BOTH UK strains and licensed to improve herd fertility, where infertility is caused by *L. hardjo*

Vaccination is usually carried out in spring, before turn out, as grazing stock is most at risk of being exposed to contaminated grass from infected or carrier cows' urine. Other risk factors include bought in cows and bulls of unknown infection status, waterways and co-grazing with sheep as they can act as carriers.

RISK FACTORS

- Waterways** - contaminated water will spread disease
- Grazing with sheep** - sheep can be carriers of disease
- Using a bull of unknown disease status** - natural service spreads disease through herd
- Buying in stock with unknown disease status** - unknowingly introduce disease onto farm

Leptavoid H requires a 2 dose start (4-6 weeks apart) followed by an annual booster. It can be given from 1 month of age (although if given below 5 months old a further primary course should be given at that age with an interval of 4 weeks).

Vaccination should be avoided within 2 weeks of service as this can reduce conception rates, although this may be due to handling stress rather than specific vaccine effect. This effect is transient and unlikely to be no greater than 10%.

Offer for those farms affected by vaccine unavailability in spring.

MSD are offering a BUY 3 GET 1 FREE promotion for those farms having to retart vaccination in their herd. 2 doses are needed 4-6 weeks apart, a minimum of 2 weeks before turn out. This is the same regime you would use for replacement youngstock and heifers (hence their offer of 2 for 1 rather than buy one get one free). If anyone is only vaccinating previously vaccinated cows (ie no new starters) and just missed out last year please contact us.

