



Lanes
FARM VETS

Newsletter

May 2020

Hello. Unfortunately, yet unsurprisingly, we have no upcoming 'Dates for your diary'. Hopefully we will catch up with our programme of meetings later this year.

The fine weather has been fantastic for getting on top of field work and for lambing time. Beware of the high nematodirus risk for our area at the moment (see inside for more details). John Thompson won my personal competition for the first person to say to me 'we could do with some rain..'

We are managing to pretty much work as normal with a few social distancing adaptations. There are some non-urgent jobs we have been postponing such as calf disbudding & castrating. However as the lockdown continues this is something we are continually assessing. As calves grow the procedure becomes more stressful for both calf and handler. Where we can restrain animals whilst continuing to social distance we are happy to carry out the procedure. Please contact us to discuss.

Although vets are not working in the office they are happy to discuss cases and decide if a visit is needed over the phone. According to our records there are a few Red Tractor Health Plans either due or overdue –we can carry these out over the phone or by email, we have been informed Red Tractor are continuing with remote audits.

Also please don't forget to phone your orders in before turning up so there is time to book your drugs out and safely deliver into the box. Stay safe and keep well.



Check out our facebook page for up-to-date news and please send us pictures of your innovative handling successes allowing social distancing whilst safely treating animals. Prize for the best!

Lanes farm vets on facebook or email: farmteam@lanesfarmvets.com

'A local practice committed to delivering outstanding service'



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HIGH RISK NEMATODIRUS ALERT!

NADIS parasite forecasting has shown that we are currently high risk for nematodirus egg hatching.

Nematodirus worm eggs often overwinter on pasture and synchronised hatch when weather conditions are right. This results in grazing lambs over 6 weeks old (& occasionally calves) getting a massive load of worm larvae hitting their guts before they have had any chance to develop any immunity. It can result in sudden death before any scours are seen, alternatively lambs can be seen scouring and looking tucked up. It is often the biggest, strongest lambs that are affected as they are often grazing the most.

Faecal egg counts are not much help to identify the acute disease as the worms will not have had sufficient time in the gut to produce eggs.



Spring mass hatching of nematodirus eggs occur when ambient temperatures reach 10°C, usually after a cold snap. Lambs 6-12 weeks old are most at risk



What wants worming? Any turned out lambs or calves over 4-6 weeks old unless they are turned out on pasture that was not grazed by any sheep or cattle last year.

What is the best wormer? There is not much nematodirus resistance to white drench in this area (unlike other gut worms) so a dose with white drench now should be effective. A post drench faecal egg count test (10 days after dosing) would be useful to see how effective the drench has been.

Rules of dosing:

Always check the product is in date, stored correctly and that your dosing gun is dispensing the correct amount of medicine. Dispense a dose into a syringe to calibrate. Dosing guns often dispense very inaccurately. Under dosing is the quickest way to develop resistance.

COW SIGNALS—PART TWO

Part two of our series of cow signals looks at what goes on at the feed face.

The feed face

A high yielding dairy cow can eat over 3.5% of her body weight in dry matter in a single day. To achieve this a 600 kg animal would have to consume about 18 kg and spend a LOT of time eating!

Look: There should be enough space for the whole herd to feed at once and access should be unimpaired by traffic jams, dead end passageways or bullying behaviour.

Look for hair loss, swellings and abrasions on the back of cows' necks. If this is a common sight then grab a tape measure and investigate, as it could indicate that the feed rail needs adjusting or that the cows are having to stretch excessively to reach the feed.

Think: Holsteins require about 65 cm of feed face per cow during lactation and 75 cm per cow during the transition period. If the cows have lots of rub marks it may be useful to use these measurements of a typical set up as a starting point to compare yourself with. Usually the brisket board will be about 50 cm from the feed stance and the neck rail will be about 70 cm above it, set forwards slightly.

Act: How did you measure up? Once you know where the most limiting pinch points are you can start to address them. Depending on what you found you may choose offer feed along the entire length of the feed face, add extra ring feeders, push up feed more frequently, adjust the feed rail, add vertical divisions to the feed rail, tilt head yolks forwards, or think about altering management groups.



Milking cow tubes availability update

The most recent updates we have received on milking cow tubes are:

Synulox LC and Tetradelta are now expected back in stock between Oct & Dec 2020

Multiject & Albiotic have a suggested return date of May 2020

Mastiplan LC are expected in June 2020.

However we are advised these may be subject to change.

Non-critically important (CIA) intra-mammary preparations still available for first line use and purchase include Ubropen, Ubrolexin, and Orbenin LA.

Don't hesitate to ask if you are unsure about which products are best suited to your farm's mastitis cases.

Clostridial disease protection for lambs (& calves)

Heptavac P Plus can be used for replacement breeding stock (and fattening lambs) from 3 weeks old followed by second dose 4-6 weeks later. It protects against lamb dysentery, pulpy kidney, struck, tetanus, braxy, blackleg, black disease and clostridial metritis and aids control of pneumonic pasteurellosis. From 69p /lamb (250 doses).

Ovivac P Plus is suitable for fattening lambs and can be used from 3 weeks old with a second dose 4-6 weeks later. It protects against pulpy kidney, tetanus, braxy, blackleg and aids control of pneumonic pasteurellosis. From 55p / lamb (250 doses).

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