



Lanes  
FARM VETS

# Newsletter

January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Wishing all our clients and their families all the best for 2021—lets hope it's a better year all round. We are continuing to offer all of our services where we can carry out the work safely. If you have concerns please don't hesitate to contact us and we can find solutions.

## **Saturday opening hours**

We are continuing to be open on a Saturday morning 8.30-12 noon for drug orders, however we are having to staff the surgery on slightly reduced numbers, to reduce mixing of staff bubbles, so we ask that you phone first for medicines orders and (unless urgent) they will be ready for 12 noon. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Medicine supplies**

Brexit (along with new regulations in EU for medicines production) have resulted in a few supply problems for our usual medicines. We have managed to source alternatives for the interim but unfortunately it does mean a few name changes and please make sure you check withdrawal periods—we try to match with as similar as possible but inevitably some may differ. See back page for more details.

*'A local independent practice committed to  
delivering outstanding service'*



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

## Ketosis costs money and can be prevented

Ketosis has major consequences in terms of production, health and fertility in cows. Many major diseases and early culling are at increased risk with ketosis.

### Did you know?

**358kg**

Cows with sub clinical ketosis give 358kg less milk across the whole lactation<sup>1</sup>



**25%**

The reduction in antibiotic use after reducing ketosis incidence<sup>2</sup>



**50%**

50% less chance to get pregnant on first AI<sup>3</sup> in cows with ketosis



\* contact us for references

## RISK FACTORS

- Lactation number 1 and 3+ <sup>5,6</sup>
- High body condition score/ BCS (over or equal to 3.5) in dry period <sup>7,8</sup>
- Loss of BCS in dry period <sup>9</sup>
- Long dry period (over 2 months duration) <sup>10,11</sup>
- Twinning <sup>12</sup>
- History of energy related disease <sup>13</sup>
- Milk fat protein ratio over 1.5 in previous lactation <sup>14,15</sup>
- First calving over 27 months <sup>16</sup>
- Decreased dry matter intake pre calving <sup>17</sup>

‘SOFT’ cows (Sick, Old, Fat and Twin bearing) are at high risk of developing ketosis.

Taking steps to support these cows before they suffer (eg Kexxtone boluses) can pay dividends.

Ketosis occurs when there is a decrease in dry matter intake in pre-calving cows. This could be a result of many reasons such as:

- Lameness
- Sickness (mastitis / rotten calf / fluke etc)
- Overcrowding
- Social grouping
- Group movements
- Cow comfort
- Heat stress
- Water space
- Feed space

Looking at these areas critically and assessing the impact they are having on cow health could reduce the impact of ketosis in your herd. Elanco (producers of Kexxtone) have produced a handy checklist to help you assess how your system is predisposing to ketosis. Please ask if you would like a copy or for us to go through it with you.

For more information on ketosis, the healthy start checklist and Kexxtone either visit [www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/kick-ketosis](http://www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/kick-ketosis) or ask your routine vet.

## Parasite forecast for January

Now is the time to be planning your parasite control strategy for the year—please ask if you are unsure.

**Chronic fluke infection** may be seen in [cattle](#) and [sheep](#) that previously grazed “flukey” pastures towards the end of last season. If housed, use of a flukicide product other than triclabendazole may be possible, as the majority of parasites are likely to now be adults.

For livestock still grazing “flukey” pastures, the relatively warm end to the year may have allowed development, emergence and survival of liver fluke cysts on pastures later into the season than usual. In such cases it is also advisable to remain on the lookout for [acute or subacute fasciolosis](#), particularly in sheep, with cases having been observed in December.

In grazing animals, particularly store lambs, continue to be vigilant for signs of [PGE](#), with trichostrongylosis (black scour worm) a particular risk in the winter months.

In housed sheep and young cattle (particularly last season’s lambs/calves) consider also the potential need for an effective treatment against [encysted larval burdens](#) (type-2 ostertagiosis). These are acquired towards the end of the season by animals grazing contaminated pastures. These can cause acute and severe scours in late winter/ early spring, and are not detectable by worm egg count. A product active against encysted larval stages is required to prevent severe disease.

Ectoparasites: [Mites \(including sheep scab\)](#) and [lice](#) can look similar in the early stages of infestation. Where there is doubt seek veterinary advice and diagnosis before proceeding with treatment for both cattle and sheep.

## Pneumonia alert

We have been made aware of a lot of pneumonia outbreaks in young calves over the last week. Things you can do now to reduce the severity:

- **Keep calves warm** (jackets and plenty of dry straw)
- **Reduce drafts**—cold air drops as it hits warm air creating drafts below inlets—move calves 1m away from walls or put a shelter for them to go under.
- **Keep buildings as dry as possible**—bugs don’t survive in a dry atmosphere
- **Vaccinate** with Intranasal for rapid protection—ask us if you want help

**TB test booking**—Please note we are getting very booked up with TB testing up until March. If you require a test please contact us as soon as possible to ensure we can find a mutually suitable date. APHA have announced there will be no relaxation of testing windows due to Covid.

**IBR vaccine supply issues**—we are experiencing batch deliveries for the month for Bovilis IBR vaccine which is resulting in limited stock at certain times Please don't hesitate to contact us to discuss your needs. We do have alternatives available if necessary.

**Product updates** - One of our largest manufacturers, MSD, have introduced a new wholesaler of their products which isn't our usual wholesaler. We will ensure we have plenty of stock of their products but in the instance where we do not have the product in stock we can still get the products the next day although the delivery times do differ and are usually anything before 3pm, we will let you know if the product needs ordering and will organise a phone call for when it arrives with us.

We still have limited milking cow tubes, we have a good supply of Ubrolexin, Ubropen and Mastiplan but have no new updates on the return of Tetra Delta, Synulox LC, Orbenin LA or Combiclav.

We now have an alternative for Draxxin called Tuloxxin—it's a direct alternative with the same withdrawals and dose rate. We will let you know when you order Draxxin if it will be the alternative Tuloxxin.

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