



Green Lane
FARM VETS

Newsletter

March 2021

The sun is shining as this is being written ... long may it continue, it certainly does raise the spirits. As you can see we are well on the way to finally getting our new computer system to print the invoices we want! There are a few improvements we are still waiting for but we hope you find them much easier to follow this month. If there is anything you would like us to feed back to the software designers please let us know.

Some of you may have heard that we are planning a move of premises this year, don't worry you can still collect your orders from Green Lane surgery after the move if this is easier for you. We are very short on space at the current premises so a move to purpose built premises at Brock auction will house our farm vet team and the majority of the stock. As yet we do not have dates for the move but will keep you informed of building progress.

Don't forget we can also offer free delivery—please contact the office on 01995 602468 for details. We usually require 48 hours notice to ensure products we need to order from the wholesaler arrive.

HUSKVAC REMINDER

Orders are now being taken for Huskvac. 2 doses are required approximately 4 weeks apart a few weeks before turnout.



If cattle are wormed with a long acting wormer remember they may not get sufficient exposure to lungworm to boost immunity from natural infection. These cattle can have a single booster of Huskvac before turnout in their second grazing system to ensure protection.

If you are unsure about which wormers to use with Huskvac please do ask.

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



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

How many Johnes 'reds' do you have?

Johnes prevalence is high on the agenda for Tesco producers this year, as they have to meet a target of less than 2% positive cows by the end of July.

All dairy farms now have to have a Johnes management plan in place (part of your Red Tractor documents), most are on quarterly sampling and nearly all are very familiar with Johnes control methods on farm. However, Johnes eradication is a slow process.

Some producers will want to speed things up (eg by earlier culling of positives, or asking us to blood sample cows which have had their first high milk result). It is worth everyone talking through their Johnes protocols to make sure we are all doing what we can to reduce and eradicate the disease.

Coccidiosis in calves and lambs

Coccidiosis in young calves and lambs is caused by infection by protozoan parasites which damage the lining of the alimentary tract causing diarrhoea.

Outbreaks of disease are commonly seen 3-4 weeks after mixing groups of recently-weaned dairy calves, often associated with overstocking and contaminated accommodation. Contaminated watercourses are a major risk of coccidiosis for young spring-born beef calves while at pasture during the summer. Some pastures carry higher contamination than others and are associated with disease in young grazing animals. Lambs between 4-8 weeks old are most commonly affected and most often the later born lambs with early lambs acting as multipliers of the oocysts on pasture.

Control relies on:

- ⇒ Thorough disinfection of buildings between batches and clean feed areas
- ⇒ Decoquate can be used in-feed for prevention of coccidiosis in dairy calves
- ⇒ Fence off all surface water wherever possible and supply piped water to water troughs.
- ⇒ As survival of oocysts is possible from one year to another - calving/lambing on the same pasture each year may increase the risk of coccidiosis
- ⇒ Strategic treatment can be used if other management factors fail to control disease—ask for more details.

Copper poisoning in sheep

March is often the month we see a peak in copper poisoning in sheep, probably due to concentrate feeding at this time. Clinical signs can include jaundice, weakness, head pressing, breathlessness and sudden death. White faced sheep breeds (eg Texels & Beltex) are particularly susceptible. Young growing animals are also more prone.

Prevention depends on avoiding the feeding of copper-rich diets to susceptible animals. Feeds with high concentrations of available copper include -

- Pasture, silage and root crops grown on ground to which large quantities of pig or poultry manure has been applied.
- Distillery by-product feeds such as distiller's dark grains produced from copper stills. Concentrate feeds containing palm oil or molassed sugarbeet pulp. (Whole grain cereals are relatively poor sources of copper.)
- Other potential sources of copper include; access to cattle minerals; copper sulphate foot baths; and fungicide-treated timber.

Excess dietary copper is stored in the liver and once storage capacity is exceeded, or if there is concurrent liver disease (eg fluke), copper can be released into the blood stream where it causes breakdown of red blood cells (haemolysis). This can be brought on by stress (such as travelling).

Diagnosis is often by post-mortem examination (jaundice of carcase) and confirmation is from liver & kidney biopsies for copper analysis.

Leptovoid H vaccination offer to new or lapsed users

Leptovoid H vaccine is available for new or lapsed users on a buy 3 get one free promotion (4for3). Cattle previously unvaccinated (or not kept up with annual booster) require 2 vaccines 4-6 weeks apart to start followed by an annual booster.

Leptospirosis is a urine-spread disease causing sick cows, milk drop and abortion. It can survive long periods of time in water courses—which along with cattle movements is the main route of spread from farm to farm. It can cause serious disease in humans too. Cattle are most at risk following buying in stock and when grazing (particularly with access to watercourses from other farms). Vaccination is usually carried out in spring to give maximum protection at turnout. All turned out cattle should be vaccinated beforehand (including youngstock from 1 month old).



Go Harry!!

On March 5th, I'll be setting off on an arduous challenge to raise money for the homeless charity 'Centrepoin't.' I'll be running 4 miles, every 4 hours, for 48 hours: Nearly the equivalent of 2 marathons in 2 days!

Myself and 30 others across Lancaster are doing the challenge in memory of a friend's son, who tragically died aged 19 earlier this year.

I love running, but as some of you may have noticed during night time call outs, I'm not a big fan sleep deprivation – so am a little apprehensive about the challenge! I'll be posting updates on the Lanes Farm Vets Facebook page throughout the week end, and will also post the just giving link for anyone who would like to sponsor us.

Fingers crossed for a dry and sunny week end. See you on the other side!

New treatment for digital dermatitis

We now stock 'green spray' - a copper sulphate based **treatment for digital dermatitis**. '**Repi derma**' spray is a **non antibiotic** treatment, used as an alternative to blue spray. It has been used successfully in herd mobility plans, alongside other measures, for several years in the UK and has a **good base of evidence** to prove its efficacy.

More recently, green spray has also been used for treatment of **lameness in sheep**. As many of our sheep clients know, **CODD**, or '**contagious ovine digital dermatitis**' is super contagious and can be difficult to treat. If you would like to trial green spray for treating CODD, it can be used alongside your usual injectable antibiotic treatment.

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