



Bodrwnsiwn Veterinary Group Ltd

bodrwnsiwnvets.co.uk

24 Hour Emergency - 01407 720800

April Newsletter 2017

NEWS . . .



Farmer's Meeting

with KATE HOVERS

at ANGLESEY SHOW GROUND, May 9th, 7.00pm.

Kate qualified from Liverpool Vet School in 1983 and spent 21 years in mixed practice with a particular interest in sheep and beef. Kate holds a certificate in Sheep Health & Production. Kate has been a consultant and flock health advisor since 2004 and lives on a small hill farm in the Brecon Beacons. She will be speaking on growth rates in lambs, Lameness and is open to a Q&A session. If you wish to ask a question anonymously, send an email or bring in to the surgery and we can ask questions of your behalf.

Join us for a burger and a drink!
Please let us know if you are attending for the catering numbers.
Thanks

REMINDER- If you pay your account by BACS please now use the new account details. Account Number 61531034 Sort Code 40 30 14 - Thank You.

DON'T LOSE LAMB RETURNS TO ORF THIS GRAZING SEASON

In a recent study, orf-affected lambs were 10% lighter on average than disease-free animals¹. In addition to showing the negative impact that orf had on lamb growth rates, the study also suggested that there was an 82% chance that the mother of a lamb with orf also had the disease on her udder or teats. So failing to vaccinate lambs while they are at grass could be costly.

Orf is a continuous threat and when the depressed lamb growth rates, increased lamb mortality and ewe replacement costs, extra lamb feed costs and direct treatment expenses associated with an outbreak are all taken into account the disease costs can become significant.

Orf is also quite often seen in older lambs that have picked up skin abrasions while grazing, particularly if they have been on pastures with plenty of thistles. Thistles can break the skin around the mouth as the lamb grazes, and if the orf virus happens to be present on the skin, it can easily infect the animal and cause clinical signs of the disease.

As well as thistles, rough grazing, brambles and cut foliage from hedge trimming can cause damage to the animal's skin and again, if the orf virus is present, this increases the risk of an infection.

If the disease does break out at grass – and if you've seen orf before there's every likelihood that it could, simply because the virus can survive in the environment for many years – any infected lambs are less likely to finish on time. Remember, too, that orf infections in any young sucking lambs can quickly spread to ewes, causing sore teats and mastitis, which can be very serious, even fatal.

As well as being a contagious disease of sheep, orf is zoonotic and causes painful sores on the skin of people.

Consequently, it's well worth discussing suitable control options with the practice, especially if you have seen it in your flock before. So if you have experienced it on the farm, vaccination of lambs with the SCABIVAX[®] FORTE vaccine is a very sound investment indeed.

References: 1. Lovatt et al (2012) Vet Record.

ECTOFLY

Ectofly Pour on for Sheep is for the treatment and control of headflies.

Ectofly Pour on for Sheep is for the treatment of tick infestation with a persistent efficacy of 10 weeks (the majority of ticks killed within 3 hours), and treatment of biting lice in sheep.

Ectofly Pour on for Sheep is for the prevention and treatment of blowfly strike on sheep. Will kill maggots on contact - 6-8wks cover.

WE ARE NOW STOCKING ECTOFLY IN 5L and the PROMO PACKS OF 4 X 5L WITH A GUN.

The product is very competitively priced £59 + Vat per 5L.



LEPTOSPIROSIS – IS YOUR HERD PROTECTED?

58% of non-vaccinating dairy farms and 22% of non-vaccinating beef farms test positive for exposure to leptospirosis¹. In the UK, two strains have been identified - *Leptospira interrogans* serovar *hardjo* and *Leptospira borgpetersenii* serovar *hardjo*².

In some cases, the effects of leptospirosis can be dramatic. For example, in a recent leptospirosis outbreak in Ayr³, 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 risk⁴ from the urine of infected cattle. This may result in protracted flu-like symptoms and, in rarer cases, liver and kidney failure⁵.

Risk factors for leptospirosis in cattle include buying-in stock of unknown disease status, using a bull of unknown disease status, grazing near waterways and grazing with sheep.

Vaccination remains an important control measure and continues to be effective at reducing the incidence of clinical disease⁶ and the risk of infection. Leptavoid®-H is the UK's leading leptospirosis vaccine⁷ and the only one licensed to protect against BOTH UK strains and licensed to improve herd fertility, where infertility is caused by *L. hardjo*. It is important that your herd is fully vaccinated before spring turnout because at grass uninfected cattle are exposed to the urine of infected animals. Natural service also spreads leptospirosis so remember to vaccinate the bull.

It has been found that over 60% of leptospirosis positive farms are also positive for Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD). For added convenience Leptavoid®-H is the only leptospirosis vaccine licensed to be given at the same time (at different injection sites*) as Bovilis® BVD, the UK's leading BVD vaccine⁷. This helps to reduce cattle handling and improve on-farm efficiency.

References - MSD.

FLOCK CHECK 2017

We have some subsidised Toxoplasmosis & EAE blood testing available for flocks of more than a 100 ewes and not already been vaccinated against Toxoplasmosis or Enzootic Abortion.

This is running until 31st July 2017.

If you wish to take advantage please ring the surgery.

