



BEEF & YOUNGSTOCK

Find out more
about housing,
vaccinations and
our latest training
course.

AUTUMN 2018

Newsletter

Housing considerations

We have experienced a drier summer than we are used to and this has posed different challenges. Worm burdens have been greatly reduced on pasture over the summer however if we get a heavy rainfall following this dry period there is likely to be mass emergence of worms onto pasture which may have severe consequences for our livestock if left untreated.

Exposure to lungworm may also have been reduced over the summer and so we would advise watching out for or listening to cattle to see if they are coughing over the next few months and treating if necessary. Lungworm can cause significant respiratory disease and death in cattle and should not be overlooked in any grazed stock. Where cattle have been grazed for extended periods the use of long acting anthelmintic bolus activity may have worn off and further treatment may be necessary.

Testing for Lungworm larvae can be done on a faecal sample however is slightly different to a normal worm egg count. If you would like to check grazed stock for Lungworm please submit a faecal sample stating that you require Lungworm testing.

Bringing in cattle from markets, other farms or common grazing can introduce new diseases to your own farm, including parasites such as liver fluke. **Liver fluke** is a common parasite that infects cattle, sheep and other domestic animals as well as wildlife such as deer and rabbits. Following several wet years monitoring, testing and treating for liver fluke early is also recommended during this year.

Resistance of liver fluke to treatments, in particular products containing triclabendazole (TCBZ), appears to be an increasing problem and one that needs managing on all livestock farms. It is important that care is taken to reduce selection pressure for resistance whenever possible by only using triclabendazole-containing products when no other options are suitable. Other medicines which contain the active ingredients, closantel, clorsulon, nitroxylnil, oxcyclozanide and albendazole are effective against adult flukes and some (nitroxylnil and closantel) are effective against late immature stages between seven and eight weeks old.

Summary of flukicide products licensed for use in cattle

Active ingredient	Administration route	Stage of fluke killed
Triclabendazole	Oral	2 weeks onwards
	Pour-on	6-8 weeks onwards
Closantel	s/c injection	7 weeks onwards
	Pour on	
Nitroxylnil	s/c injection	8 weeks onwards
Clorsulon	s/c injection	Adults only
Oxcyclozanide	Oral	Adults only
Albendazole	Oral	Adults only

If treating now or immediately on housing we would recommend using a Triclabendazole product but if cattle are housed for 7 weeks or more, one of the other products is often more suitable. **Please speak to us about testing or when to treat.**

Vaccination



Thought should be given to vaccination before housing. Although rounding up cattle that are grazing can be difficult, giving vaccinations prior to housing has the added benefit that cattle are protected at housing where they may be mixed and are exposed to more pathogens in a tighter stocking density.

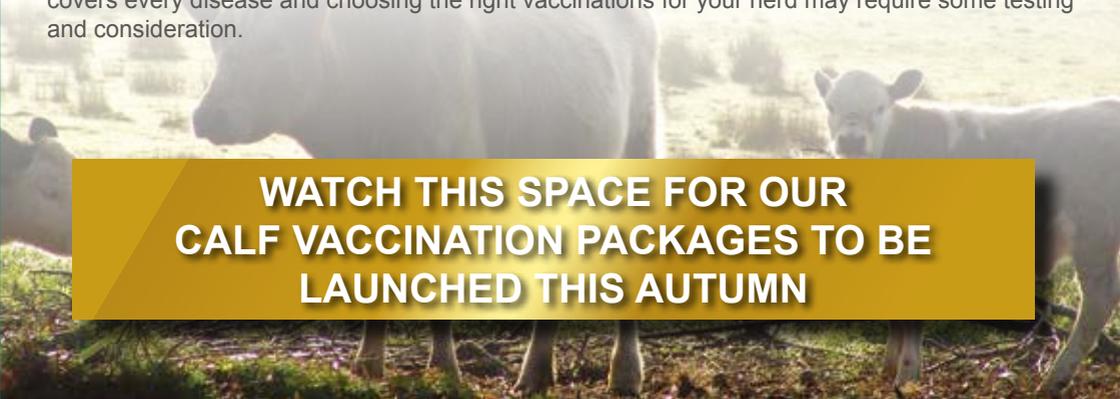
Vaccinating prior to housing also means that animals are not subjected to more stress with mixing, diet changes, clipping and other medicine administration such as wormers and flukicides, all of which may reduce the protection of the vaccine.

Most vaccine courses require 2 doses 4 weeks apart, however if they were done before turnout a single vaccine booster may be sufficient. If the animals require both components we would recommend doing at least the first before housing.

Pneumonia control is a balance between the level of challenge from the 'bugs' on the farm, the environment which includes housing, bedding, ventilation and stocking density and the animals immunity. Getting the right balance can be difficult and changes with the age and size and time of year and external factors.

Calves less than 200kg do not generate enough body heat to create a stack effect and so need more protection from the elements whilst good ventilation is maintained. Once calves have grown enough to create a stack effect having sufficient air outlets in a building is crucial to keeping lungs healthy. As animals grow and the kg per m² increases thought should be given to reduce the infection pressure within the batch. Checking buildings and carrying out maintenance before housing is a good idea but carrying out a ventilation assessment is best when there are animals in the shed.

Pneumonia vaccines if given correctly boost an animals immunity and prevent or reduce the clinical signs of certain diseases covered by the vaccine. There is not a single vaccine that covers every disease and choosing the right vaccinations for your herd may require some testing and consideration.



**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR OUR
CALF VACCINATION PACKAGES TO BE
LAUNCHED THIS AUTUMN**



A Date for your diary

MEDICINES LUNCH MEETING



As part of your farm assurance Red Tractor now recommend that at least one member of staff responsible for administering medicines has undertaken training and holds a certificate of competence. Appropriate courses include the dairy focused MilkSure course, which is now a requirement for some processors, and general vet run medicines training courses covering dairy, beef and sheep. We will be running a series of lunchtime medicines courses that fulfil the Red Tractor requirements over the coming months.

The first medicines course will be run on:

27th of September 2018 - 12.30pm

at Oakhill Farm Vets, Langley Lane, Goosnargh, PR3 2JQ
Limited places available - £40 per person including lunch

Meet the team

Amy Bowers

Amy graduated from Liverpool University in July 2018 and is originally from Barnard Castle in County Durham.

Amy's key area of interest is dairy fertility but also enjoys alpaca and goat work.

When she's not being a Farm Vet, Amy likes to bake - the rest of the Oakhill Team are looking forward to sampling cakes!



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