

## Lungworm - get prepared

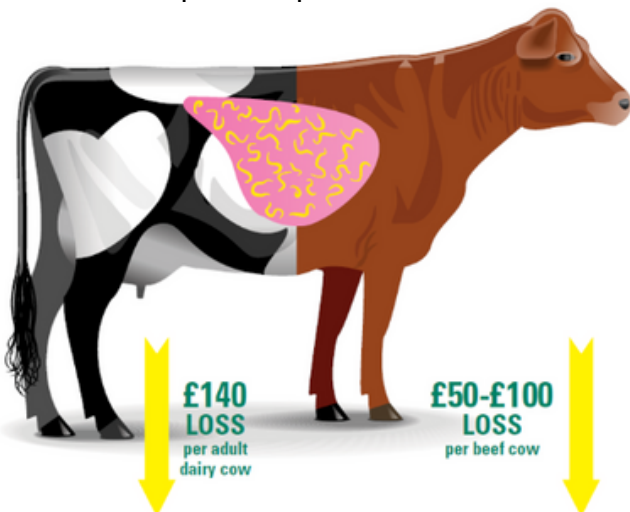


Now is the time to consider the grazing season ahead, especially with regards to preventing lungworm infection in your cattle. Last year presented a higher than average challenge in controlling lungworm, with many farmers seeing signs and having lungworm diagnosed in their stock from June onwards. Whilst lungworm is traditionally associated with causing infection in first time grazers, we now frequently see second season grazers and occasionally cows being heavily infected if they have had no prior exposure.

Lungworm is a parasitic infection of cattle, caused when cattle eat infective larvae, which travel from the gut through to the lungs, where they mature into adult worms that produce eggs, which are coughed up, swallowed and passed onto the pasture through the faeces. Eggs develop into infective larvae in faecal pats and then are dispersed across the pasture, especially in wet and mild conditions.

Youngstock are gradually exposed to lungworm larvae at pasture, and at low levels will be able to build up immunity after infection, without having such a heavy burden as to become unwell. However, certain situations will lead to an outbreak scenario where cattle are severely infected with lungworm which can lead to pneumonia and fatalities. Cattle can be carrier animals, where lungworm larvae are able to overwinter in the lungs, and then be excreted early in the grazing season. This is most common in yearlings and allows pasture contamination early in the season, leading to high levels of larvae on the pasture in favourable weather conditions. If you had a lungworm outbreak last summer, the risk is increased this year especially to first season grazers.

Lungworm outbreaks are unpredictable, and undertaking a robust control plan incorporating a vaccine protocol is the key to long term lungworm control on your farm. Vaccinating with Huskvac is the best method of protecting first season grazers. The vaccine is a live attenuated vaccine, essentially a small dose of lungworm given orally. It is repeated after 4 weeks and calves are protected from 2 weeks after their second dose. Do not use any wormers until 2 weeks after the second dose at the earliest. The vaccine allows the immunity to start developing, and then immunity is maintained by low level exposure at grass. The vaccine is only advised if lungworm has previously been diagnosed as repeated exposure to the parasite is required for vaccine efficacy. If you would like further advice please speak to one of our vets.



### CLINICAL SIGNS OF LUNGWORM

 <b>COUGHING</b> <i>(especially presenting with a long and low neck with tongue out)</i>	 <b>DYSPNOEA</b>	 <b>NASAL DISCHARGE</b>	 <b>SALIVATION</b>
 <b>TACHYPNOEA</b>	 <b>LOSS OF CONDITION</b>	 <b>LOSS OF APPETITE</b>	 <b>REDUCED MILK YIELD</b>

Are flies on your farm a nuisance?

Come and learn more about a natural and effective fly control at a

# FARM WALK

Wednesday 12th March

11am - 1pm

By kind permission of Mr J Chamberlain

at Hollyhurst Farm, Marston Montgomery, DE6 2FD

Please call the Farm Office on 01889 567200 to reserve your place

Light refreshments will be provided, kindly sponsored by

**BESTICO**



## MASTERING MEDICINES COURSE

- Red Tractor approved course suitable for beef, dairy and sheep enterprises
- Suitable as a refresher to comply with updated Red Tractor standards (Feb 2025)
- For Dairy enterprises at least one person should have undertaken training within the last 5 years
- For Beef and Lamb enterprises at least one person should have undertaken training since October 2016



Wednesday 19th March

2pm

Marchington Woodlands Village Hall,  
Tinkers Lane ST14 8PF

PHONE THE FARM OFFICE ON 01889 567200  
TO BOOK YOUR PLACE



## Happy with your scanning rate?

If you've had a higher than expected barren rate in your flock, it may warrant further investigation.

There is currently funding available to screen your flock for toxoplasmosis, enzootic abortion or Schmallenberg virus. Visit and sampling fees apply where necessary, and ewes should be unvaccinated. Consider sampling your barren ewes before they leave the flock.

For more information and to discuss your flock health please call the Farm Office on 01889 567200 to speak to one of our vets.

