



KERNOW
DAIRY VET SERVICES

November 2019

01208 76403

Welcome to our dairy focused newsletter

Transition cow management

Back in September we held a talk on management of the transition cow. Many of you were unable to attend so we shall repeat this at the later time of 8pm and hopefully on a wet day! The changes that occur in the month before and after calving are huge, and a lot of veterinary time and cost is involved when this goes wrong. Mastitis, fertility and lameness issues along with LDAs, Milk fevers and retained afterbirth can be indicators of an issue. The best managed farms are where the farmer, vet and nutritionist work together to combat problems, and we find this team approach works well. These issues should be seen as indicators that change is needed to improve cattle welfare and production. We often find that a farm will have an increase in LDAs or metritis following a busy calving period and that is because the dry cow area has become overstocked resulting in a reduction in dry matter intake. Its important to remember that you may not feel there has been a change in diet but when there is more pressure on a group of cattle their intakes will reduce. Monitoring rumen fill and dung consistency will give you an idea of how your close up dry cows are coping, but combined with blood sampling for energy levels you will then have an idea if your cows are coping and predict the likelihood of post calving problems. Regular analysis of milk recording data can show how well freshly calved cows are performing. If you have a high proportion of cows with butte fat levels over 5% in the 1st 60 days after calving this suggests an issue with ketosis which often is result of the cows not being prepared to meet the changes of ration as they calve down. Next month's meeting will go into this further.



Article written by Phil Dawber MRCVS

Repeated Free Dairy Workshop 8pm at the KFE Building Bodmin

- **Thursday 21st November—Transition cow management— Getting it right to reduce ketosis related disease eg fatty liver, LDAs, increase milk yield and maximise fertility**
Ring the practice on 01208 76403 to book your places and reserve your free supper.

Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm Saturday and we have vets available 24 hours a day.



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Calf Pneumonia

It's that time of year again where the risk factors of disease increase. We all know that it's going to happen and we can't control the weather, but the risk factors can be reduced. Thinking about calf housing, stocking density and targeted use of vaccine is really important, and should be done before disease is an issue. An often overlooked risk is BVD, with the presence of 1 carrier animal in the shed spreading virus and reducing the immune system of the rest of the group. If you attended our meetings for "bvd stamp it out" and haven't taken advantage of your funded testing now would be a good time to contact us. Your calves' Immunity level is built on a foundation of adequate colostrum intake, but is maintained by the correct balance of trace elements, vitamins and nutrition. We can blood sample your calves to assess colostrum uptake, energy levels and trace element status which will yield valuable information on areas to concentrate on if necessary. Educating staff on the importance of youngstock rearing is a useful exercise on farm and we can help formulate a best practice protocol which all staff can agree to. This can help prevent problems with all members of your calf rearing team following the same advice. We have found that farms that reduce stress at key points in their youngstock rearing such as weaning and disbudding have a lower rate of pneumonia. Gradual weaning and not combining this with other stressors such as moving groups can help reduce the risk. We advise you to speak to your vet to help reduce your risk factors, disease rate and antibiotic use; and increase growth and calf survival rates as a result.



Article written by Ben Hutley BVSC Cert CHP MRCVS

Mastering Medicines



Amy ran our first dairy focused medicines use course last month. As a result of a recent change in Red tractor standards, all farm assured holdings are required to have at least 1 member of the farm attend a training course. This has changed from a recommendation to a requirement. Amy's course looked at the common drugs that are dispensed and decision making for their effective use. Correct injection technique and needle size selection was covered along with medicine recording. By correctly giving a medication it is more effective and the likelihood of successful treatment increases. These courses provide a valuable insight into medication use, and with consumer demand and concern of antibiotic resistance is a necessity in the modern dairy industry. Amy will be running further courses for those of you that were unable to attend. Please contact the practice to register your interest and we shall be in touch.

Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-



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