

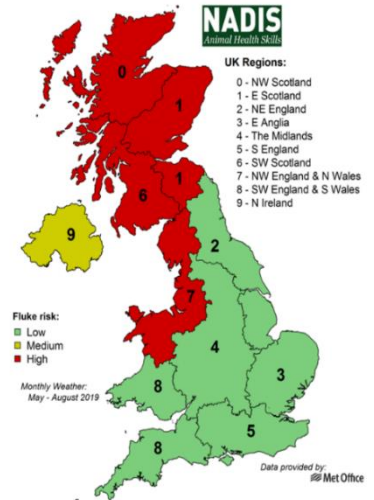


## Sheep Fluke Treatments

Following a warm and wet summer, the Scottish fluke risk is predicted to be high. Threat may vary farm to farm, but previous problems with fluke, or stock kept on water logged pastures pose a significant risk. Signs of fluke in sheep can be severe and include: sudden death, dullness, weight loss and bottle jaw.

Treating with a product active against immature fluke (triclabendazole), early on, is important to lower the fluke burden. However triclabendazole resistance can be a problem, so use of other products at specific timings should be included.

Contact the practice for specific advice for your farm and competitive flukicide prices.



## West of Scotland Dairy Show

There was a great turn out to this years' 'West of Scotland Dairy Show', with 40 entries putting the time in to present some really top class animals. Congratulations to all our clients that took part for their efforts with a special mention to those that placed;

*Mr H. Montgomery: Champion 'Holstein Championship' & 1<sup>st</sup> 'Holstein Cow in milk'*  
*Mr M. McHarg: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 'Ayrshire Heifer in milk'*  
*Mr A.W. Montgomerie: 4<sup>th</sup> 'Maiden Heifer Any Breed'*

We were really pleased to see so many of you at the West of Scotland dairy show – lots of interesting discussions were had and home baking enjoyed! This year we launched our quiz to fundraise for RSABI; a charity that provides both emotional and financial support for struggling people in Scottish agriculture. We are very aware that many farmers are under a lot of pressure and urge you not to suffer in silence.

**RSABI is completely confidential**, with a helpline available 7am – 11pm on **0300 111 4166**.

*Quiz sheets have a farm theme and can be collected from any of our offices, at only £1 entry, open until 25<sup>th</sup> November.*

- **1<sup>st</sup> prize: Dinner for two at the Fenwick Hotel donated by MBM**
- **3x Runner up prizes: Large quality calf jacket kindly donated by Mole valley farmers**



## Lameness Meeting

MBM are hosting an on farm **lameness meeting** on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> of November. The meeting will be held at Grougar Mains, Kilmarnock, KA3 6HT and we would like to thank Stuart Mitchell for hosting. The meeting will run from 12-2:30pm, each station will last 30 minutes with a break for lunch. Thanks to **CEVA** for sponsoring the meeting.

There will be 4 stations on farm;

- MBM new mobile cattle crush demonstration
- Cost of lameness and benefits of NSAIDs
- Mobility Scoring and its importance on farm
- Foot bathing: How frequently, what to use and why.



*Please let the practice know if you would like to attend for catering numbers on 01563522701.*

# The MBM Red Tractor Approved Medicines Course

By the time you read this we will have delivered three courses to a total of 49 farms, mainly dairy. The course runs from 12 noon-14.30, with a delicious Langholm Farm sandwich lunch provided. It is delivered in an on-farm classroom and is designed to be informative and useful, with feedback so far, positive.

The areas covered are;

- *legal and therapeutic classification of medicines*
- *rational use of antibiotics for lameness,*
- *medicine handling (storage, administration, record keeping),*
- *antibiotic resistance,*
- *maximum residue limits and withdrawal periods,*
- *mastitis and calf pneumonia and scour.*

From now on all Red Tractor Farm Assured dairy farms will need to provide a certificate of attendance at an approved course within 3-years of inspection date. It is not yet mandatory for beef or sheep farms, but is highly recommended. So we will be running these courses regularly.

Please contact the Kilmarnock office (01563 522701) if you would like to be added to the waiting list for future courses – the cost is £40/person exc. VAT.

Alternative courses from other providers are available.

## Mastitis and Cell Counts In Dairy Herds

We are often asked what can be done to tackle a rising cell count or an increase in clinical mastitis cases. Often this is whilst calving a cow or doing pregnancy diagnosis!

There is a LONG list of things you **could** do to reduce mastitis

BUT

What you need to know is the SHORT list of things you **must** do to address **your** particular issue.



To provide you with meaningful advice we need to make a diagnosis of the cause of your problem. Is it environmental or contagious mastitis? Are new infections arising in the dry period or during lactation? Is it a first lactation cow problem? What is the proportion of repeat clinical cases? Is there a seasonal element to the problem? We can answer some or all of these questions by looking at mastitis data (i.e. at least 12-months of monthly somatic cell count data and accurate and complete clinical case data – preferably computerised) and / or at least 10 hygienically collected milk sample cultures from cows with high cell counts or suffering from clinical mastitis.

The answers and an on-farm inspection allow a diagnosis and a short list of must do's to be created. In other words there is no simple or quick answer to a simple question – an investigation is required, otherwise we are just 'guesstimating'.

Some of the common issues we come across are listed below but remember these will not necessarily be the cause of any problem you might have:

1. Not bedding cubicles DAILY. There is clear evidence of a rapid rise in bacterial numbers in the bedding if it is not refreshed daily.
2. Using wet or damp bedding e.g. green sawdust or bedding stored outside.
3. Not using a teat sealant at dry-off. There are very few herds in this part of the world, where dry-cows are bedded using organic bedding (e.g. straw or sawdust), that do not benefit from this. If you are new to teat sealants we need to show you how to administer the sealant safely and effectively.
4. Unhygienic dry-off technique.
5. Not milking freshly calved cows within 6-hours and preventing calves cross suckling cows
6. Failure to cover at least 90% of the teat skin with teat dip, usually when rapid application of teat spraying is employed
7. Using teat dips that are not licensed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. Licensed dips have a dossier of evidence showing safety and efficacy that is scrutinised by experts before a license is granted. Unlicensed products may be effective but there is no available proof to the level of a licensed product. If the name of the product does not include the word 'dip' it is likely to be unlicensed, see <https://www.gov.uk/check-animal-medicine-licensed>
8. Cell counts often rise in summer, for reasons that are not completely understood, and fall back again in the autumn.

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