

National Johne's Management Plan (NJMP) – Dairy Herds

Most milk buyers require their producers to participate in the NJMP. Last year we undertook an assessment of each herd's Johne's disease status, a risk assessment and drew up a herd specific health plan for Johne's disease control. The deadline for the declaration that a review of all these has been undertaken by the farm's veterinary surgeon and the advice updated and documents edited where necessary is 31/10/19.

Please try and get this done as well in advance as possible! If you can't find the paperwork we should have it uploaded to your client file at the practice.



Autumn Worm and Fluke Control

Sound veterinary advice and competitively priced wormers and flukicides are available through any of the farm vets at MBM Veterinary Group. We have been surprised on occasion how much we have been

able to save some clients by supplying the correct product for the job compared to the different and unnecessarily expensive product being used previously. If there is not a vet available when you phone the office one of us will phone you back.



Medicine Orders

Given the number of different medicines often with unpronounceable and similar names the potential for dispensing error is significant. We try and double check orders before they are handed to you. However, if

very short notice is given between ordering and collecting this can be difficult. Please try and phone orders in as far in advance of when you want to collect them as possible. If you wish to collect medicines on a Saturday morning it would be helpful if you could phone the order in during the preceding week. This is because we have a reduced number of staff working on Saturdays and putting up and checking a number of orders phoned in on the Saturday can be problematic.

Tup Breeding Soundness

Tutting preparations should begin 8-10 weeks before the breeding season, to ensure rams are healthy and in good condition prior to work. Tups should be fit not fat, aiming for a condition score of 3.5/5. New tups should be quarantined for 4 weeks, with fluke and worming treatments and foot examinations (particularly for CODD) undertaken. Don't forget to include tups in flock vaccinations, e.g. footvax and clostridial vaccines, also.

Tups are an expensive outlay, and fertility examinations of new and existing tups can help to identify infertile/subfertile animals. This involves a physical examination – including teeth, feet, eyes, heart and lungs – prior to testicular and semen evaluation. One study found 16% of tups were unsuitable for breeding, and so it is a useful exercise to maximise lamb numbers.

The earlier tups are checked, the more time you have to re-test any subfertile animals or source a replacement, if needed.



Dairy Calf Meeting

Thank you to everyone who turned out for our dairy calf morning in Dundonald at the beginning of July. Speakers Natasha, Jennifer and Colin Penny (Zoetis technical vet) covered a range of topics including;

- tools to evaluate housing and colostrum such as Brix refractometers, min/max thermometers and weigh bands.
- the benefits of good drainage and ventilation in calf sheds and attention to detail in feeding routines.
- examples of respiratory disease control using real life cases.

Thanks to the Smith family for kindly hosting in their new calf shed and to Zoetis for sponsoring the meeting.



LIVER FLUKE WARNING!

The infective stage of liver fluke is dependent on the presence of mud snails, mud snails breed and survive best in wet mild weather therefore the West of Scotland is always a risk area, and in wet years such as this one, there is VERY HIGH RISK.

Once infected it takes 12-13 weeks inside a cow/sheep before a fluke is adult and is producing eggs, prevention of disease is by a combination of reducing pasture contamination, reducing exposure to boggy snail filled areas, and treating fluke within the animals whilst trying not to overuse products for resistance and economic reasons. The same liver fluke infect cattle and sheep, but as sheep have much smaller livers the result of a fluke burden is much greater, which is why commonly the first sign of fluke noticed in sheep may be **sudden death/anaemia** (acute fluke), compared to cattle which generally show **weight loss, ill thrift, poor production and scour** (chronic fluke), for this reason fluke in cattle is often alerted by the abattoir before signs noticed.

What can we do?

Housed animals: Cattle are housed shortly after fluke exposure (Sept/Oct), each flukicide has a wait period post housing to ensure that all the fluke inside the animal are now of an age where the product will remove them. This means cattle are fluke free for the rest of the housing period, reducing loss of condition through housing and preventing cattle adding to the spring pasture burden of fluke at turn out.

Overwintered outside: Sheep/cattle kept outdoors will be continually picking up fluke now until the return of dry weather. In high risk years such as this, sheep should be treated every 7 weeks for fluke with a flukicide that kills both adult and immature fluke. This not only keeps the sheep healthier through winter to reduce losses, it also ensures that overwintered sheep are not ramping up the fluke burden on pastures and helps reduce incidence of twin lamb disease. Sheep shed much higher numbers of fluke eggs than cattle.

There are many available products and so please discuss your management plan with us; ***Triclabendazole products are popular in sheep as they kill right down to 2 day old fluke, but some farms may have resistance to them so it is important to check for this when first using it on your farm or if you have suffered losses despite use.**

***Triclabendazole products should not be used where fluke deaths/disease is already present; for the product to become active and kill the fluke it must first be altered by the liver which in these cases is already compromised.**

PLEASE SPEAK TO THE VETS FOR FURTHER ADVICE

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