

Farm news



Eleanor Tyler BVSc MRCVS

Study highlights an effective way to reduce antibiotic use in calves

A recent on farm study has shown how antibiotic use can be safely reduced in calves, boosting welfare and cutting costs without impacting productivity.

The findings have demonstrated that use of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) product at times of high stress can avoid the need to routinely turn to antimicrobials, which traditionally have often been a first line of defence against diseases including calf pneumonia, one of the biggest problems in calf rearing.

The NSAID used in the study was Solacyl from Dechra, which contains a type of aspirin. Led by vet Owen Atkinson, of the Dairy Veterinary Consultancy, the study took place on three farms rearing for Meadow Quality Ltd, across four cohorts of animals. The headline finding was that using Solacyl as a first line treatment, under the cascade, reduced antibiotic use by more than 40% without any significant impact on mortality rates.

As well as being administered for the early signs of pneumonia or other routine illness, Solacyl can be used to enhance welfare by covering the herd at other times of stress, such as disbudding. By using analgesia, we may potentially be able to symptomatically support an animal through a disease process, ensuring they keep eating and drinking, which means that in some cases antimicrobials may not need to be used. There will always be cases when they may need to be used but this does provide an alternative that fits with the current drive to reduce use of antimicrobials.

Solacyl also benefits from being lower cost than antibiotic treatments, is easy to administer in milk, water or wet feed and can be stored for up to six months even once bags are opened. Speak to one of our vets for more information.



Meet Anca Marinache!

Anca graduated from Bucharest University of Veterinary Medicine in 2011 and worked as a vet in small animal practice until she moved to the UK in 2014.

Anca has also previously worked in food safety in the Midlands area. Being attracted to English rural life, Anca joined the Scarsdale Vets Farm Team in March 2019 as a TB tester.

In her spare time, Anca enjoys watching movies, gardening, travelling and looking after her two cats, Bob and Kittykat.



VetImpress App

Rob Howard BVMS MRCVS

Scarsdale Farm Vets are now using VetImpress, a new online data collection app to improve decision making on cattle farms. This app can be used either on a smart phone or tablet.

With your vet, it can be used to collect:

- Pregnancy diagnosis and fertility data
- Animal weights and growth rates
- Body condition scores
- Mobility scores
- Breeding events (AI/heat detection/calving)
- Disease information
- Hoof trimming data

As part of our service, we are using the app to monitor and record fertility data on farm to better analyse and store the information we gather during routine fertility visits. This data can then be used to guide future management decisions to improve on farm production. For dairy heifer rearing and beef farmers, animal weights can be gathered and investigated to see if animals are reaching weight gain targets. The app can also be used to access cow records whilst working around the farm, saving time going through records in the office.

The app is currently free for Scarsdale Vets clients to use and there is also a farmer app called FarmImpress that can be used to input and analyse farm management data including:

- Animal records
- Farm medicine cupboard
- Animal treatment records
- Animal groups
- Weights
- Feed management

The app is designed to give the farmer a greater level of detail of what is going on with their cows and help them to comply with their farm assurance standards and records.

Ask your vet about how VetImpress can be used to maximise profit on your farm.



Rose Jackson
BVSc DBR CertVBM MRCVS

NMR and CLARIFIDE® have teamed up to offer Comprehensive Genomic Testing

Scarsdale Vets were one of the first vet practices in the UK to offer CLARIFIDE®, the dairy genomic test from Zoetis; NMR and CLARIFIDE® are now collaborating in order to offer the service to a wider range of farmers

Genomics is becoming an integral tool in UK dairy herds that offers great advantages to producers. CLARIFIDE® gives strategic breeding options with the added value of a bespoke consultancy package through trained veterinary surgeons including Scarsdale Vets.

With just one simple test and up to 70% reliability, CLARIFIDE® gives a prediction on:

- Health and Fitness
- Production and Management
- Type and Composites
- Milk Protein Components
- Parentage and Inbreeding

This is compared to just 15-30% reliability when selecting heifers using Parent Averages or less than 1% if selecting by visual assessment alone.

CLARIFIDE® test results are now accessible on a bespoke, intuitive online analysis tool, called SearchPoint that allows farmers to determine which animals will be most profitable on their farm.

Although relatively new to the UK, CLARIFIDE® is well established in other markets where the impact on tested farms has been substantial. CLARIFIDE® has been found to improve profitability over twice as fast as the industry average¹. Farmers testing with CLARIFIDE® have seen increased milk production, a reduction in their calving to conception interval and improvement in first service conception of 14% by breeding from the top 25% compared to the bottom 25%¹.

Reference

1. On CLARIFIDE® tested farms in the UK and USA, data on file

Farm and Equine Centre
Markeaton Lane, Markeaton, Derby DE22 4NH
01332 294929

Alfreton
01773 304900
Pride Veterinary Centre
01332 678333

Allestree
01332 554422
Shelton Lock
01332 700321

Hilton
01283 732999
Stapenhill
01283 568162

Langley Mill
01773 304914
Stretton
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