

Newsletter October 2017



It was good to see plenty of clients at the Dairy show this week I hope you returned home inspired and full of ideas!

We are running an evening meeting covering young stock rearing on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November. If you are interested then please call to book a place. We also have some interest in running another foot trimming practical session so if you would like to learn or brush up your skills then please let us know and we can add your name to the list. As soon as we have enough names we will run a course.

I mentioned last month about pain relief. We have now agreed within the practice that our standard protocol will be to administer pain relief for all disbuds/de-horns and castrates in addition to local anaesthesia. We firmly believe that the additional cost will easily be off-set by the gain in growth over not using additional pain relief.

Probably one of the biggest disease challenges to the livestock industry (other than TB) is Johne's disease. We see huge losses as a result of this disease daily on our farms. I cannot urge you strongly enough to those of you who are not yet looking to control the disease to do so. Johne's presents a huge challenge to control because of the difficulty in identifying infected cows, as there is a long incubation period between infection (generally as a baby calf) and the onset of clinical signs (scour and weight loss normally around 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> calving). Modern management practices have no doubt exacerbated the extent of infection, namely large communal calving yards, pooling and feeding of colostrum/milk and the move to larger herd sizes. Slurry from adult cows should be excluded from calf pens and food in order to minimise spread. Simple steps that can help reduce spread are, washing and disinfecting your boots before entering the calf shed and bedding the youngest calves first before moving up through the pens to the older ones.

If you would like to establish your herd status or implement a plan to reduce and control then please get in touch as we would be only too happy to help!

A new antibiotic called Zeleris has been launched that combines a popular pneumonia antibiotic (Florfenicol) with Metacam. This is similar to Resflor but has a longer duration of anti-inflammatory protection (Resflor = Florfenicol + Finadyne). We feel that this is a superior product that we will now stock rather than Resflor. It does have the added advantage of a better dose rate (1ml per 10kg) and better syringeability. It is also cheaper!

We ran a successful meeting discussing a new vaccine that is available to cover some of the bacterial causes of pneumonia including Pasturella; this is a novel product that can fit well into your vaccination protocol, and interestingly there is some trial work looking at giving the vaccine to cows pre-calving to boost the quality of their colostrum, and therefore protect the calves in the early days of their life; a period that we often struggle to control disease as it is too early to give vaccines directly to the calves. If you would like to review your vaccine protocol then please speak to us as it is important to make sure you are using the most appropriate and cost effective strategy.

Just like in cattle we see a large number of cases of pneumonia in sheep, very often presented as sudden deaths. The vaccine Heptavac-P requires two doses 4-6 weeks apart. Make sure you get your lambs vaccinated now to cover the coming risk period.