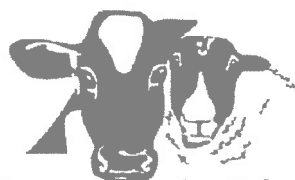


Newsletter November 2016



Tibbs and Simmons

Farm Animal Veterinary Surgeons

The dry autumn weather has been very welcome to many of you who are looking to delay housing. This has given us somewhat of a logistical headache in arranging TB tests at the end of everyone's window, being as close to housing as possible. Your continued co-operation is appreciated in booking your TB test as early as possible to allow us to organise our diary as efficiently as possible. We are now subject to spot checks from both XL Farmcare and APHA at increasingly regular intervals so your co-operation when presenting cattle in a timely and safe fashion is essential.

Ringworm continues to give significant problems to many of you. Once established in a herd it is virtually impossible to eradicate. The Fungi causing ringworm have the ability to lie dormant and re-emerge from time to time. Very often, ringworm is just accepted as 'one of those things' but it is often underestimated how much of an impact it can have on growth rates; severely affected animals can suffer 12kg loss in live-weight gain over a six month period. Treatment is often tricky and un-rewarding with Imaverol washes. When cases are mild, generally cattle will recover without any ill effects but these cases can affect marketing decisions as well as being a risk with human contact. A vaccine is available but has a very low uptake considering the prevalence of disease; when vaccinated before 4 months of age two 2ml doses are required costing under £7 per course. The vaccine can also be used as a treatment but requires two double doses to be given.

As you are all well aware, we regularly have students with us when they are on their placements from University. We are of course very grateful to you for allowing them onto your farm and giving them an opportunity to practice their skills under our supervision before they are let out in the big wide world. We as a practice receive no payment for taking students and we see it as our obligation to the profession. Sometimes students can improve the efficiency of a visit and sometimes they can add to the time taken, for your reassurance, we always ensure we discount any extra time a student delays a given procedure.

We have been trialling some software called Myvetimpress recently. This allows us to enter data on farm more efficiently as it combines BCMS records with your medicine purchases and NMR recording data. Myfarmimpress is now available to all our clients at no charge as we subscribe as a practice. For those of you that are tech savvy and enjoy using smartphones it is perfect. We can give you your individual log in if you download the MyFI app. You can use this app to keep your medicine records as well as record all sorts of other data on the farm. The medicine purchases from us will automatically download into the app which you can then allocate to individual animals that are also stored from your farm, batch numbers and withdrawals are automatically populated. Please ask me if you would like to log in and take a look or for more information.

We are doing a practice audit looking at mastitis rates in early lactation and high cell counts at first recording in order to compile a benchmark for the practice. You may well receive some information on this over the next month. Early lactation mastitis is an indicator of failure of the transition and dry periods. Benchmarking this information will allow us to target our advice to the farms needing more input in this area, it also serves to demonstrate what can be achieved.

*Ed*