



So, what's new?

On returning to work in September after 8 months' maternity leave, it was nice to see that a lot of things have remained the same; however there have been some changes. So, for something different I thought I would highlight some of the changes in this month's newsletter.



Colostrum Powder

As I said, some things stay the same; my passion for young-stock work being one of them. So when I saw that a new colostrum substitute was available I looked into it straight away. CCT is dried cow colostrum that is harvested from cows in Scotland, so designed to have antibodies against all the bugs present here in the UK. It is dried in a specific way to maintain all the important antibodies and fats that make colostrum such an important starter feed source. A 700g sachet contains 100g of maternal proteins, compared to many other products with less than 12.5% of that. It can also be used for the first 14 days of life at a scoop a day mixed in with the milk. This gives the gut a coating of antibodies and creates a barrier to bugs such as Rota virus. We now stock this product, so why not order some and give it a go?

Scour check

If scours are causing you a problem in the first 2 weeks of life, colostrum is the correct place to start solving the problem. However there are specific preventions depending on which bugs are present. We now offer a scour test that we can run in-house. This not only makes the test cheaper but also the turnaround quicker. Just drop off a sealed sample (either in a glove or jar)



with the calves' number and ask for a scour check test.

Store & Thaw

This is another new product brought to market. This doesn't pasteurise the colostrum but it enables easy and clean storage and quick reliable thawing of the colostrum. If colostrum is defrosted at over 60°C then the antibodies within it are at risk of cooking, making them worthless.



Trusti tuber



This is a new product designed by a vet in New Zealand. It holds 4L, so big enough for colostrum, and is easy to clean and easy to use. It has marks on the tube to aid correct positioning of the tube. The tube entering the calf is very soft but the mouthguard protects it. We stock this, come and see.

Calf vaccinations

Previously there have been problems with manufacture of certain vaccines; however all are now currently back on the market.

- **Rotavec Corona** is a vaccine that is given to the dry cow, but through the colostrum has its targeting effect on the calf to decrease the risk of scour.
- **Ringvac** is aimed to preventing or treating ringworm, it is given as two injections 2 weeks apart, the dose is altered depending on age.
- **Risposal Intranasal** is now available in individual dose vials as well as 5s. Timing is important as it can't be given before 9 days, but if given too late then the calf may have already been exposed to the viruses.

Changes have also occurred in adult cattle -

Metacam

This is not a new drug - many of you already use it regularly. But this non-steroidal anti-inflammatory now has some new claims. Due to its pain killing and anti-inflammatory effects even on a mild and moderate case of mastitis it has a positive impact on fertility. A large study compared cows given antibiotic tubes plus Metacam to cows given the same antibiotic tube plus placebo. The Metacam group performed better as follows:

- Higher percentage of cows conceiving to their first service (31% vs 21%).
- Lower number of AI's required to achieve conception (2.43 vs 2.92).
- Higher percentage of cows pregnant by 120 days after calving (40% vs 31%).
- It was also seen that cows treated with Metacam had a higher bacteriological cure rate than those that received the placebo (66% vs 50%).

Imrestor

Neither a vaccine nor an antibiotic, Imrestor is a naturally occurring protein that increases the cow's own immune defence when she is at her most vulnerable: the transition period either side of calving. This is the time that all cows suffer a dip in their natural immunity and are therefore more susceptible to diseases such as mastitis, metritis and retained placenta.

Imrestor works by dramatically increasing both the number and effectiveness of the relevant white blood cells in the cow. This means it works on a broad spectrum basis not specifically against a specific bug or disease.

Not forgetting the sheep!

Draxxin is often used as a pneumonia antibiotic in calves, as it has a long length of action and good tissue penetration. However it is now licensed against foot rot in sheep, with a 16 day withhold.

Foot vax can now be used in pregnant ewes but not within one month of lambing. Also, just to highlight, sheep that have previously been given

Footvax should never be injected with Moxidectin 1% injection. Some sheep can develop sensitivity; this is uncommon but can be fatal.

Courses and services

We currently run a number of farmer courses:

- **Calf course**, this goes through calving the cow, colostrum, nutrition, diseases and prevention as well as weaning and weighing.
- We continue to offer 2-3 day courses in either **foot trimming** or **AI technique**, and now also available refresher sections.
- **Medicine handling**, this is great if you have new staff coming onto the farm, but also useful for the whole team to have an open discussion about which drugs to use when and most importantly why.
- **Drying off training** especially aimed at the use of Orbeseal. Along with this we also offer a parlour visit, to assess the impact of milking routine on mastitis and SCC.
- We also offer **mobility, body condition, teat end** and **digital dermatitis scoring**.

UPCOMING COURSES:-

Calf course – Wed 22nd Nov

Medicine handling – 29th Nov

Foot trimming – Jan 2018 (TBA)

AI – 10-12th January 2018

Parlour visits and drying off - farm specific

All courses are subject to demand.

Please ring into the office on 01666 823035 if you're interested or contact me directly for any more details. More details on our website.



Kat (and Freddie)