

farmnews

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE
FOR ALL SPECIES OF ANIMALS

DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL **APRIL 2009**

TRACE ELEMENT AND MINERAL MEETING - The outcome and results from that meeting... | **SPRING VACCINATIONS** - Vaccination requirements for the Spring and Summer

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Excellence in Practice

SPRING VACCINATIONS AND TURN-OUT TO GRAZING

The un-seasonal - but wonderful - warm weather last week has turned our thoughts to Spring and Summer but we all know what April can throw at us! You will all have different vaccination requirements **except that you must all PLEASE protect cattle, sheep and goats against Bluetongue**, so here are some brief notes.

BLUETONGUE

A recent veterinary meeting I attended stressed again the very serious deaths and production losses experienced in Europe. Treatments are ineffective and if animals survive they are non-productive. A map of the vaccine use for the UK last summer showed the highest uptake in the Oxford, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Hampshire areas so **WELL DONE BUT KEEP IT UP BY BOOSTING NOW!**

Please ring in your order (01793 501499) with your stock numbers to hand. Sheep always one dose annually, cattle vaccinated last year have one booster dose, all young cattle over 1 month old need two doses 3 weeks apart. Start soon as the protection is not there until 3 weeks after the second dose.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

The main period of spread of this disease is during summer grazing because this kidney infection is passed out of infected cows in their urine so contaminating grass for others. Even though you may have been vaccinating the herd for some time it is likely you still have a

few cows carrying the infection; vaccination will prevent the effects of disease but not remove infection in every cow. Therefore it is important to ensure all herd members, and especially the younger ones, are fully vaccinated before the grazing period.

BLACKLEG

This is a clostridial disease of cattle which causes very sudden death. The bacteria is in the soil and outbreaks, which can involve the deaths of several cattle in the group, may be linked to recent ditching jobs or other soil movements. Some farms have a history of Blackleg problems and recognise the need to vaccinate every Spring. Please ask our advice although the vaccine is very cheap and represents huge value if you perceive any risk.

HUSKVAC

Lungworm vaccine is a unique vaccine against the lungworm parasite which we supply to your special order. Two doses are given by mouth a month apart to healthy calves over 2 months of age. Please ring for advice or to order.

A CORRECTION

DEFRA-SPONSORED

PRE-MOVEMENT TB TESTS

PLEASE NOTE...

I apologise that my notes last month on Defra-paid pre-movement TB tests were slightly inaccurate. However, your enquiries show that some of my efforts are read!

For herds with an annual herd TB test the Defra-paid window is for 2 months prior to the Defra-scheduled test date (see note below).

For herds with a herd testing interval longer than 12 months the Defra-paid window is for 3 months prior to the Defra-scheduled test date.

Please note it is essential that you check with the TB section at your Defra office (Gloucester or Reading) to confirm **YOUR HERD TEST SCHEDULED DATE**, as we cannot tell you this.

We are NOT referring to the date your test is arranged for.

DROVE FARM OFFICE
CALL: (01793) 501499

24hr Emergency: (01793) 522483



this
month...

APRIL 7TH

FARM WALK

Milking Grass for Profit

FARM WALK ON GRASS MANAGEMENT

to be held at Chisbury Lane Farm, Chisbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire by kind permission of Mr & Mrs. David Homer and sponsored by The British Grassland Society, RABDF, and The DairyCo.



FARM WALK STARTS AT 10.30AM

FREE CELL COUNT ADVICE TRIAL

We are trialling a new software programme which analyses NMR milk cell count results and produces comprehensive monthly breakdown and advice for action to control rising cell counts.

We are offering a **FREE** 3 month trial period after which a monthly charge will be made if you wish to continue. As it is via our XLVets link we require a new registration form even if you have previously granted us permission to access your NMR data. Please contact us for a form if you are interested in trying this service.

24/7

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MINERAL AND TRACE ELEMENT MEETING...

We held a well attended meeting on this subject recently. Peter Bone of Telsol Ltd. spoke clearly about a complex subject. He addressed 3 questions;

- Does it affect my stock?
- If so, why have I got this problem?
- What can I do about it?

Under the first heading he gave the many and varied signs of mineral deficiency which range from anaemia, weakly calves, retained cleansings to poor coat colour or a compromised immune system. We recognise a wide variety of these signs in stock throughout the area.

Why we see these problems is due to the make up of our different soils and the many chemical reactions within them which lock up some minerals in compounds which cannot either be taken up from the soil by plants or cannot be absorbed from the gut once the plant is eaten.

Action involves a full assessment of the diet for mineral content to include an estimation of that mineral which is actually in an available

form for the animal to absorb. Peter insisted the balance of minerals offered was very important to achieve satisfactory absorption levels, eg. Selenium and Iodine levels must be in harmony to avoid deficiency signs. The complex copper absorption story is well known; sulphates and molybdenum in soils and in plants combine with copper to lock it in a thiomolybdate compound which stock cannot use in the body.

Finally, Peter explained how CoSeCure bolus from Telsol gave cobalt, selenium and copper in a very long-acting form which, in particular, gave the best treatment to cows suffering from copper deficiency due to thiomolybdate 'poisoning'.

Please ask us for advice if you are worried about mineral deficiency and were unable to attend.

Unsure if a Rabbit is the right pet for you?

Have you got a Rabbit but confused by feeding?

Did you know rabbits need worming regularly and should be vaccinated each year against Myxomatosis and Haemorrhagic Viral Disease?

Do you want advice but don't know where to go?

Buying a Rabbit for the first time, or re-homing one?

Our Nurses run FREE BUNNY CHECKS where advice and information is given.

Why not **join our Bunny Club** where preventative healthcare is covered by simple monthly payments, with membership allowing you to enjoy a 10% loyalty discount on a range of healthcare products as well.

Please ask at your Drove Branch Surgery to either make an appointment or for further information.

Please contact **Drove Veterinary Hospital:**

01793 522483

www.drovevets.co.uk

**YES... I'M
CUTE!**

but will you still 'love'
me next year...?

DROVE
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