

farmnews

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE
FOR ALL SPECIES OF ANIMALS

DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL MAY 2009

BUTOX SWISH VALUE PACK - An economic and effective fly and midge control this summer...

LIVER FLUKE - An increase in Liver Fluke incidence in dairy herds...

A member of  **xl vets**
Excellence in Practice

SUDDEN DEATHS IN CATTLE

Sudden, unexplained deaths in cattle are often puzzling to owner and vet as well as being a serious economic loss. The first action must be to inform us or Defra to determine whether they require us to visit and perform an anthrax test.

This is paid for by Defra. When we are doing an anthrax test we can make a thorough external examination of the animal which can sometimes give a good idea of the cause of death. For example, severe pallor of the mouth and vagina will indicate internal bleeding, 'crackly' gas under the skin of the rump or shoulder is a sign of Blackleg caused by a Clostridial soil bacteria or we might find the thin watery milk of a coli mastitis.

Full post mortem examinations by the Langford VLA are recommended when more than one loss makes a determination of cause essential.

There is no doubt that some of these sudden deaths will be due to the Clostridia group of soil bacteria which are so well controlled by vaccination in sheep. Bravoxin 10 is a cattle clostridial vaccine which protects cattle against the 10 different types of clostridial infection in cattle.

The most well-known clostridial bacteria is *C. chauvoei* - the cause of blackleg, which

is familiar to many cattle producers. Blackleg tends to occur in younger animals from 6 to 24 months of age with most cases occurring at grass.

Other clostridial diseases include black disease, caused by the soil spore *C. novyi* and bacterial redwater, caused by *C. haemolyticum*, which is found on wet, marshy land or on pastures after floods. Black disease is closely linked to damage of the liver by liver fluke (see reverse) and so the increase of both these diseases may be linked. There are, however, other clostridial bacteria coming to light as potential causes of sudden death in cattle. These include *C. sordelli* and *C. perfringens*, the latter causing enterotoxaemia (bloody scour) in youngstock.

Vaccination is the **ONLY** way to control clostridial infections. We would be very interested to have your thoughts on how we might assess the numbers of sudden unexplained cattle deaths in this area.

BLUETONGUE REMINDER...

A final reminder! You should have planned or hopefully completed your bluetongue vaccination by now as the recent warm weather was a 'midge activating' temperature.

Please ring us immediately to order your vaccine if you have not yet given primary or booster doses.

Bovilis BTv8;

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|--------|--|
| Sheep | 1 ml dose, a single dose primary vaccination plus annual booster. |
| Cattle | 1 ml dose, a primary course of two doses 3 weeks apart plus single annual booster. |

KRUISE LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT CATALOGUE

As members of the nationwide XLVets group, we are pleased to enclose a Kruse equipment catalogue, with price list, which has been specially produced for farm clients of XL veterinary practices.

The catalogue is well laid out with good illustrations of most products so that you can choose with confidence.

Kruse manufacture and promote a wide range of good quality and highly regarded equipment now available from us at competitive prices. Please ring in your order to the farm office (01793 501499) and in many cases your requirements will be available for collection from us the following day.



DROVE FARM OFFICE: (01793) 501499

**DROVE**
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

BUTOX SWISH VALUE PACK

As with all insect populations the adult is a tiny proportion of all the egg and larval stages in the environment.

Therefore, early treatment of the adult population is essential to keep the numbers from exploding into a plague. Begin to treat your flies **NOW** and the population will be controlled much better.

For economic and effective fly and midge control this summer please look no further than our Swish Value Pack. This includes 10 litres of Swish PLUS 2 FREE litres and an applicator so you can treat 395 cattle over 300kg with this pack, please ring us for our best price, 01793 501499.

BARREN EWE BLOOD TESTING

If you've had sheep abortions or too many barren ewes then let us take a blood sample from 6 to 8 of them and see if contagious abortion infections are responsible.

The lab testing is free so just pay for our sampling and next year you may be able to improve your flock performance by using an appropriate vaccine. Please ring the farm office on 01793 501499.

24/7
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Alta TCC (TOTAL CALF CARE)

This is a new freeze dried calf colostrums supplement from disease-free cows containing very high levels of gammaglobulin immunity against many diseases.

The sachet is easily reconstituted to provide that vital early colostrums feed to a calf deprived of it by being weak or having an ill dam or one that is down.

A colostrums feed, approx 2 litres, within 6 hours of birth is recommended for absorption of the immunity into the bloodstream giving the best disease protection. However, continuing to feed colostrums over the next few days also gives the gut a valuable protective effect against scours.

Many of you are beginning to tackle Johne's disease by identifying infected animals. Their offspring will need colostrums but should not have that from their dam as the Johne's bacteria are in the milk. This is another opportunity to use Alta TCC Colostrum.

Please don't confuse this with the various small syringes available and marketed as 'colostrum replacer', this Alta product is the real thing! Available as single sachets. Please ring to purchase.

Liver Fluke

National disease records have been telling of an increase in liver fluke incidence and an extension of the disease into 'less wet' areas - for some years.

We have diagnosed two dairy herds with liver fluke in recent months and recommend you contact us if you experience the following; poor milk solids, unexplained 'downer' cows at calving, thin and scouring cows, 'bottle-jaw' (saggy fluid beneath the jaw and in the brisket), poor growth of youngsters. In cattle liver fluke does not usually cause sudden death as in sheep. It is a more chronic disease causing severe production losses and the possibility of Black disease mentioned overleaf.

The life cycle of the fluke involves an intermediate stage in the Lymnea water snail so some damp pasture areas are necessary for survival of the fluke.

The practice of having sheep 'on tack' in winter months may bring the liver fluke to your farm.

There are several effective drugs but treatment must be planned carefully in dairy herds as all treatments have milk withhold times.

If you have any further questions, or would like to discuss the use of our services then please do not hesitate to contact us at the farm office: 01793 501499. Or visit our website at: www.drovevets.co.uk.

DROVE FARM OFFICE
CALL: (01793) 501499

24hr Emergency: (01793) 522483

