

## Newsletter August 2022

### Top 10 Tips for Controlling Lungworm (Parasitic Bronchitis)

#### Identify risks

1. Lungworm outbreaks are unpredictable, but are more prevalent in wetter, western areas of Britain. In endemic areas, younger cattle are at risk until they acquire immunity through exposure to lungworm larvae.
2. Suspect lungworm infection if there is coughing or respiratory distress in grazing cattle, particularly first-season grazing calves, at grass.
3. Animals exposed to lungworms usually develop resistance to re-infection. Lack of exposure may result in clinical signs occurring in older cattle, including milking cows. Previously immune animals may exhibit signs if immunity wanes, or pasture infectivity is high.
4. Quarantine and treat all incoming cattle for roundworms and fluke. Bought in calves or adult cattle may introduce lungworm onto a farm. Most anthelmintics used for control of gut roundworms are effective against lungworms. Check with a Vet.

#### Treat appropriately

5. Routine vaccination should be considered for calves born into herds with an identified lungworm problem or when there is a previous history of lungworm on the farm. Once a vaccination program is started, all first year calves should be vaccinated and this continued annually for each calf crop.
6. Vaccination is not justified in low-prevalence regions, or on farms with no previous history of lungworm.
7. Anthelmintics can be used strategically in first-year grazing cattle to prevent build-up of lungworm larvae on pasture over the grazing season. As overuse of anthelmintics may potentially limit exposure to lungworm larvae to such an extent that cattle remain susceptible to infection, it may be advisable to consider vaccination prior to their second year at grass.
8. Prognosis will vary according to the severity of the disease and deaths may occur despite anthelmintic treatment. In animals with respiratory distress avoid orally administered anthelmintics.
9. Severely affected animals may require additional supportive treatment, which should be discussed with your vet.

#### Plan ahead

10. Lungworm outbreaks can cause severe financial losses and even death in cattle. This can happen at relatively low pasture infection levels. Farms with a previous history of lungworm should consider vaccination as an integral part of their overall worm control strategy as part of herd health planning.

## High Mastitis Rates? High Bactoscan?

Environmental mastitis is the most common cause of mastitis that we see at FVSW. Hairy udders trap dirt and bacteria which then cause mastitis, high somatic cell count and high bactoscans. We advise that it is best and safest to singe the hair using a painless cold flame every 3-4 months but often it becomes one of those jobs that gets put off; this is where our Vet Techs come in! Our Techs will visit the farm every 3-4 months during milking and singe the udders at very affordable rates, whilst you or your staff concentrate on milking. They can also carry out a cow cleanliness score if required. Let the office know if you are interested in booking in a Tech for a one-off session or better still arranging regular visits throughout the year.



## Honiton Show

We will be at Honiton Show again this year so please do pop in for a chat and a cuppa. As usual we will have our kids (and occasionally adults!!) Art competition. This year we would like you to design a pair of welly boots. The more colourful and exciting the better!

See you on the 4<sup>th</sup> of August ! We are on Stand B130 !



Do You Know The Cost Of Your Production?



**If you don't, we have the solution. We have funding to collect data and calculate sheep farmers cost of production!**

Studies have shown that only 20% of UK Sheep farmers know their cost of production. In these times of rising input costs understanding your cost of production is crucial to a viable sheep enterprise. Ring any of our offices today to register your interest.

**First Come—First Served**

## Medicines Course

This course will take place **Tuesday 16th August** at Sedgemoor Auction Centre.

Please contact any of our offices to book your place.