



FarmVets

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Newsletter July 2015

Neospora



Neospora is the most frequently diagnosed cause of sporadic abortion in the UK.

Neospora caninum is a parasite that causes abortion and reduced milk yield in cattle, as well as occasional heart or brain damage in calves that are born alive to infected dams. There are two significant causes of spread of this parasite: calves can become infected in the uterus, or cattle of all ages can become infected with Neospora via infected material or dog or fox faeces contaminating feed, pastures or environment. Once infected they carry Neospora for life.

By far the largest problem with Neospora infection is abortions, which are likely in newly infected cows, or in previously infected cows which undergo stress while in calf and trigger the release of Neospora across the placenta and infect the foetus. Stress can be due to a number of causes, ranging from nutrition to lameness. Abortions normally occur between 90 days and 8 months, but the only way to reach a certain diagnosis is to submit the foetus with placenta to the lab. Cows can be blood tested to determine if they carry the parasite, but this won't confirm if it caused the abortion – a Neospora carrying cow may not abort every time, especially if she isn't stressed.



Treatment and control

Unfortunately there is no treatment and no vaccination available for Neospora. The only option for infected herds is a long term control plan, involving breeding positive animals to beef, and eventual culling.

Prevention

Avoid dogs having access to cattle feed and cattle areas, and especially do not let them muck in cattle areas. Neospora oocysts (eggs) can last a long time in the environment. Avoid letting dogs near calving pens, and remove and prevent access to placental / aborted material – cattle and dogs can pick up Neospora here and start the cycle. Record abortions and try to identify any pattern. Bag aborted fetuses and placenta, keep cold, and send for testing to determine cause of abortion.



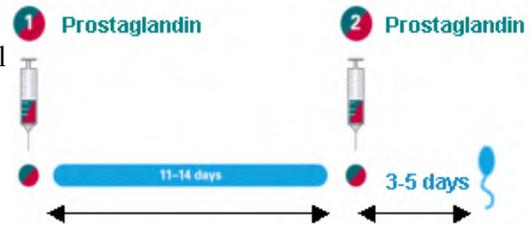
Kexxtone Bolus Warning

We've received a reminder from the manufacturers of Kexxtone that it is toxic to dogs, horses and guinea fowl - these animals should not be allowed access to Kexxtone boluses.

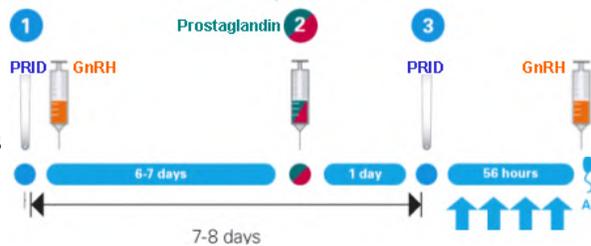
Heifer Synchronisation

A couple of clients have recently asked how they can synchronise a small group of heifers. The simple answer is there are several possible protocols and a decision will need to be made between you and your vet as to which would suit your farm best. Some prior planning is needed before deciding to start a synchronisation programme to ensure your animals are both of the right age and body condition/nutritional status to ensure maximum success.

Although multiple synchronisation programmes exist, the basic principles remain the same, using synthetic hormones to manipulate the animals natural oestrus cycle. Each drug we use acts on a slightly different stage of the reproductive cycle, i.e. prostaglandins (e.g. Estrumate) will cause regression of luteal tissue bringing on an early oestrus. Care must also be taken when using these drugs, particularly prostaglandins (e.g. Estrumate), which can result in termination of a pregnancy.



A couple of examples of synchronisation programmes your vet may suggest include a double prostaglandin injection 11 to 14 days apart which should result in oestrus 3 to 5 days later when the individual can be served following observed heat.

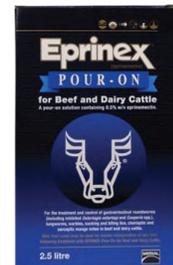


A second example can be seen to the right in which both GnRH (e.g. Receptal) and an intravaginal progesterone device (e.g. PRID) are used in addition to encourage a fixed time AI. Whatever programme you decide is best for your farm it is important to note you will not always achieve a 100% oestrus induction across the group. For more information or to discuss alternate options please contact us.

Eprizero & Enovex



Although it may seem relatively early in the season, we have had reports of possible cases of lungworm. We know that the problem always gets worse during July, August and September so please be vigilant for coughing cattle at grass. For dairy cows we have good deals on nil milk withdrawal Eprizero, and for all other cattle there are good deals on Enovex (Ivermectin Pour On).



Lepto Vaccine Deal ends in July

Please note that the Spring deal on Lepto vaccine expires at the end of July. Call any of the offices to ensure you get your vaccine before the deal finishes.

Foot Trimming Course 22nd & 29th July

We are holding a Foot Trimming Course on 22nd & 29th July. The course costs £200 + VAT and there are still places available. Call any of our offices asap for more details.

AI Course 13th July

We are also running a four day AI course from Monday July 13th. The course costs £300 + VAT and there are still places available. Call any of our offices asap for more details.