FarmVets SOUTHWEST

FarmNews

Modern approach, traditional values

Newsletter May 2020

Worms in lambs

The latest Nematodirus forecast from SCOPS has shown that Somerset and East Devon are now at high risk of Nematodirus infection. Nematodirus is a gut worm which attacks young lambs as they begin to graze.

The forecast predicts the hatch date for Nematodirus based on temperature data and should be used in combination with your grazing history to assess the risk of Nematodirus to your lambs.

You can avoid infection by moving your at-risk lambs to pasture not grazed by lambs last year.

If this is not possible then talk to us about treatment which will include benzimadazole drenching. We have some good promotions at the moment.

Recently born lambs are not at risk, this effects older lambs that are grazing more. For those lambs born in the last month you should consider cocci which is much more likely.

Art

Focus on suckler cows

Hopefully spring calving is going well. Things to remember this month include ensuring all Bulls have a fertility test. before breeding. Oten Bulls are sub-fertile rather than infertile. This means it takes longer to get all your cows in-calf. The fertility exam is a full physical “MOT” for your Bull and includes a semen test. Usually £150, but Beef Club members will be charged a reduced rate of £99.

Other things to think about are pre-breeding vet exams for all cows that have had a difficult calving or twins to clear up any post-calving infections.

Also remember to introduce heifers to the Bull earlier than the rest of the main herd so they calve down first next year. Target weight at breeding is 65% of adult weight.

New way to tackle fly problems: Fly Parasites

Flies can cause serious disruption to normal routines on our cattle farms as well as spreading disease (mastitis/new forest eye). We traditionally use insecticide pour-ons to control populations but allied to this we can now offer a novel method of attack; Parasitic wasps ("Fly parasites").
In nature flies suffer with parasites just as mammals do. Friendly Flies are pteromalid wasps, also known as fly parasites. They live 10 to 30 days and generally produce 30 to 60 eggs. In the UK we have permission from DEFRA and English Nature to release two indigenous species, Muscidifurax raptor and Spalangia cameroni.
At optimum temperatures (around 25oC) These species are not too fussy about which species of fly they will parasite. Studies have shown that regular release of Spalangia have reduced numbers of stable fly by 25 to 50%. *(Greene, GL, Kansas State University, South West Research Extension Centre,Garden Centre, Kansas)* The bags we use in the UK contain approximately 50,000 parasitised fly pupae. In deciding how many parasitized pupae to release it is important to bear in mind that the size of fly breeding area is more aligned with fly population than are stock numbers. Depending on how active the parasites are when released, peak parasitism usually occurs two weeks after release. In hot weather parasites are only active for about 1 week.

Farms have been successful in reducing fly populations by releasing these Parasitic flies every 2 weeks during the warmer months. Numbers have reduced so much that the farms can reduce their reliance on traditional fly pour-ons.
We can now source Parasitic flies . If interested in trialling some, speak to our vets who will talk you through the process.

Coronavirus update:

Thank you helping us to keep working safely during the pandemic.
Please remember:

- The offices are closed to the public
- Phone us to pre-order all medicines
- Collection is outside the offices
- All red-tractor inspections are postponed so there is no need to organise health planning meetings

Find us on: facebook

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