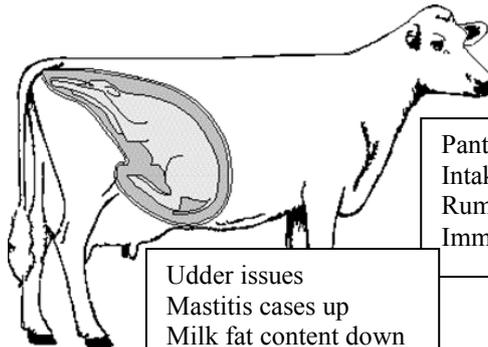


**Newsletter August 2018**

**Management of Heat Stress in Cattle**

Clinical signs?

Fertility problems  
Heat undetectable  
(shorter, no signs)  
No proper cycle

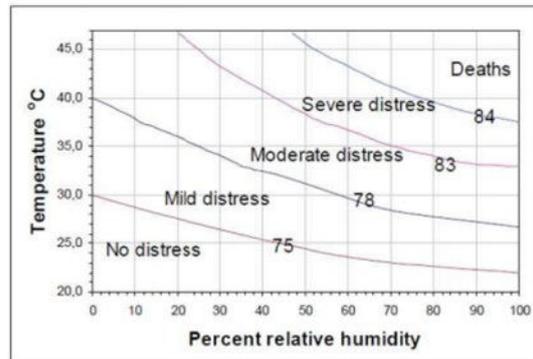


Panting ++  
Intake down  
Rumination down  
Immune system down

Udder issues  
Mastitis cases up  
Milk fat content down  
Protein content down  
Somatic cells up

When?

- Relative humidity temperature index > 75 beginning of heat stress for dairy cattle
- 24° C in stormy conditions
- 29° C in dry conditions
- Particularly obvious in cows with underlying problems (chronic pneumonia, lungworms)



Management

General:

- Mechanical ventilation with fans, misting (limit excessive temperature in the building)
- Ensure a sufficient supply of water (quantity, quality)
- Distribution of the diet in the evening or feed twice a day (limit the extra heat of the rumen and the peaks of fermentation)
- Add water to the ration (limit the sorting after drying of the ration)
- Increase the Cation Anion balance (limit acidosis problems)



Acute cases:

- Move the cow to the shade, hose with fresh water
- Treat underlying problems
- Drench with Pump Selekt Restore sachets (1 sachet per 20 litres of water); water on its own is not that effective. Give I/V fluids if very dehydrated.

## Watch out for Haemonchus Contortus

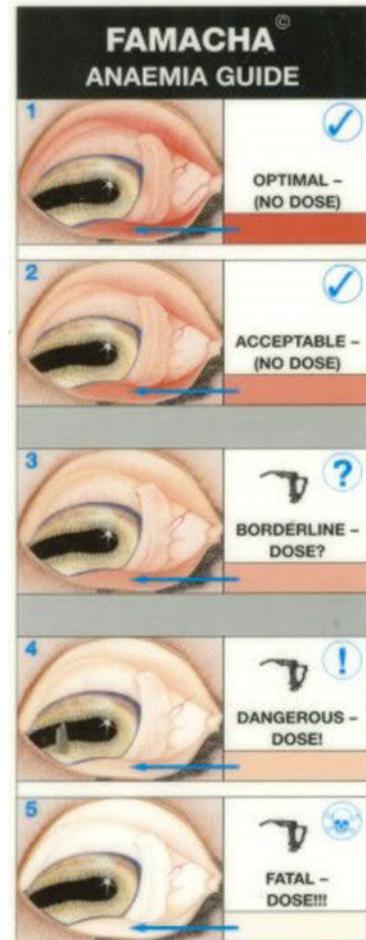
We have seen a few cases recently due to the recent warm weather. Be aware of the possibility of haemonchosis in grazing sheep and goats, particularly after heavy rains, as this tropical/subtropical parasite is much better adapted to surviving hot conditions than other gut parasites.

Signs include:

- Anaemia and pallor as seen above. There is a chart to help you assess the colour of the mucous membranes of the eyes called the FAMACHA chart as you can see on the right.
- Diarrhoea is **NOT SEEN**
- In severe cases submandibular oedema (bottle jaw) can be seen. This is where a swelling appears under the chin that if pressed on will leave an indent the shape of your finger
- Sheep and goats gain very little resistance to this parasite, so ewes and rams will be affected as well as lambs
- If a dung sample is submitted we can run a Faecal Worm Egg Count in-house to look for Haemonchus eggs, giving a diagnosis.



**Haemonchosis**  
Severe anemia in acute infection.



## Remember to vaccinate for abortion now...

Three types of infectious abortion are responsible for **86% of all sheep abortions**. These are *Enzootic Abortion (52%)*, *Toxoplasmosis (25%)* and *Campylobacter (9%)*. Through vaccination we can prevent 77% of these abortions. Cost-benefit studies carried out by ADHB showed an increase in income of £21.27/ewe where flocks were vaccinated against Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasmosis. These vaccinations need to be administered in advance of tupping so contact us ASAP to speak about a vaccination programme for your flock today.



## Johne's Plans

Johne's plans need to be in place by September. We will not be able to do dozens of plans in the last week so please plan ahead now.



## August Bank Holiday

Our offices will be shut on Monday, 27th August 2018. Drugs can be collected from our Sedgemoor Office **by appointment only**.



Your local farm veterinary service

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