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Newsletter October 2011

A.I. Course

We intend to run an A.I. course in early November. The course will be based at Cannington College and takes place over 5 days. It costs £400 + VAT per person. Some "arm" services from AI companies can cost up to £10 per cow so it will not take long to recoup the course fees. There are also options for refresher courses, it's always worthwhile to hone your skills. Please ring the surgery to register an interest.

Worm and Fluke Offers

For September and October purchases we can offer the following:

- Ivomec Super - £40 cash back on 1 litre
- Ivomec Super - £20 cash back on 500mls
- Trodax - £20 cash back on 1 litre
- Eprinex - £25 off your bill for 5 litres
- Eprinex - £10 off your bill for 2.5 litres

Terms and conditions apply.

Calf Pneumonia and BOVIPAST

Now is the time to think about vaccination programmes for your calves for the long winter ahead. Remember BOVIPAST RSP is currently on offer - £45 for 10 doses, but the offer ends at the end of October!!

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Focus on calf management

Young stock are more valuable today than they have been in a long time (ever!). Yet young stock mortality and disease levels are still far too high. In the first of 3 articles on young stock management, we give you some targets and guidelines to ensure health and productivity.

1. Mortality

All newborn calves should be in an environment away from adult animals and any possible diseases they may carry.

Always treat navels on newborn calves to control infection

Target mortality rate are: 1) 24 hours to 60 days of age: <5%
2) 61 to 120 days of age: <2%
3) 121 to 180 days of age: <1%

2. Disease Incidence

Scours

Target disease incidence: 1) 24 hours to 60 days of age: <25%
2) 61 to 120 days of age: <2%
3) 121 to 180 days of age: <1%

Pneumonia

Target disease incidence: 1) 24 hours to 60 days of age: <10%
2) 61 to 120 days of age: <15%
3) 121 to 180 days of age: <2%

3. Growth rates

Target growth rates for Holstein calves are:

1) 24 hours to 60 days of age: double birth weight
2) 61 to 120 days of age: 1.0kg average daily gain
3) 121 to 180 days of age: 0.9kg average daily gain

4. Colostrum

In the first 2 hours of life a calf should be fed the equivalent of 10% of its body weight in colostrum in the case of a 40kg calf this would equate to 3.79 litres of colostrum.

The best quality colostrum is from the very first milking after calving.

- 1) It should be free of blood, debris and mastitis
- 2) It should be disease free
- 3) Bacterial count should be <100,000 CFU/ml.
- 4) Testing with a colostrum tester or blood sampling calves is recommended.
- 5) Always disinfect teats before collection
- 6) Do not pool colostrum if herd is Johne's positive or of unknown status

5. Nutrition

Clean water and starter feed should be available to calves from 3 days of age and refreshed or replenished daily. Consult vet and nutritionist routinely.

6. Housing

Ensure all animals have clean, dry good quality bedding, in an environment that is draft free with good ventilation. From 61 days of age ensure that all animals within a group can feed at the same time comfortably.

Area of rest space required for each age group:

1) 24 hours to 60 days of age: enough space for animal to turn around
2) 61 to 120 days of age: minimum of 3.16m/animal of resting space
3) 121 to 180 days of age: minimum of 3.71m/animal of resting space