



FarmVets

SOUTHWEST



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Newsletter October 2013

Green Maize Silage

The maize harvest is underway and on many farms there is a pressing need to feed the maize straight away. Ideally, any maize harvested now would be clamped and not fed until after Christmas but this is often not practicable. Maize is fed for the starch in it which helps drive milk yield and fertility but the starch does not become fully available to the cow for four months after clamping; this is why everyone says it feeds better after Christmas. If green maize is to be fed there are a couple of things that need to be considered:

Problem	Reason	Solution
Acidosis	High Sugar levels (0-7 days after clamping)	Feed a buffer (e.g. Bicarb, Acid Buf or Ostrea etc)
Acidosis	Low Fibre digestibility (0-42 days after clamping)	Feed another fibre source (e.g. straw/hay/whole crop)
Low energy	Starch less available to cow (0-120 days after clamping)	Increase other energy sources e.g. caustic wheat/barley, maize grain or soya hulls/SBP
Low protein	Green maize protein not soluble	Feed adequate rumen protein (e.g. grass silage, urea or rape)

It seems strange to think of forage causing acidosis and an energy shortage at the same time but with green or recently clamped maize it can happen. Problems seen with green maize range from undigested grain and a drop in milk to rampant acidosis with DA's and scouring cows. Generally, no more than 15% of the diet should be green maize. Overcoming these problems and keeping cows on an even keel is possible but requires some thought. Computer rationing programmes do not factor in the above, it has to be done by hand as it were. As ever, please contact us for further advice.

Merial Cashback Vouchers

Merial are offering cashback on a number of their products:

- Eprinex
- Ivomec
- Ivomec Super
- Trodax

The offer runs until 30th November 2013.

CASH BACK WITH MERIAL BRANDED PRODUCTS

- ORAMEC®** £5 per 5L pack
- TRODAX®** £15 per 2x 500ml pack
- EPRINEX®** £30 & £15 per 2.5L pack
- IVOMEC® Classic Pour-on** £10 per 2x 2.5L packs
- IVOMEC® Super** £40 & £20 per 1000ml pack
- IVOMEC® Classic Injections** £5 per 500ml pack

Products eligible for Cash Back

Offer period: 1st September 2013 to 30th November 2013. Not valid for the contents of promotional packs.

Housing Your Calves For Winter



The stress of housing calves very often brings on pneumonia. When dealing with suckler calves this is even more likely if they are weaned simultaneously causing even greater stress.

Now is the time to establish immunity against the common pneumonia bugs **BEFORE** this risk period of housing.

The two options for vaccination are Bovipast RSP® and Imuresp RP®. The first one has a pasteurella component which is the most likely cause of respiratory disease in this instance (however it needs to be given twice with a 4 week interval). Imuresp® is a single intranasal treatment. This could be done at housing but would be even better if given a week before.



Clipping their backs at the same time will allow stock to reduce excess body warmth without getting wet backs from sweating. This helps to minimize the risk of becoming too cold during lower temperatures at night times.

Mamyzin Production Issues



The factory that produces the active ingredient penethamate for the mastitis drug Mamyzin has gone into administration. No one can predict whether another company is going to produce this again in the future. All we know at the moment is that once it's gone it's gone. We will need to start thinking about alternative treatments for your herd in the future.

On our rounds.....David Taylor

A client phoned us recently about a cow that had developed small lumps along its' flanks. Such lumps are usually an allergic reaction or a bacterial infection of the skin and advice was given with regard to treatment. There was no improvement so I was called to examine the cow. On arriving at the farm it was obvious that this was not a straightforward case. Cancer would have explained the lumps but the speed at which they appeared would not be typical so maybe it was some sort of auto-immune disease (where the body attacks itself) or spread of bacteria around the body which has settled out in the skin.



Further treatment yielded no response, the cow rapidly declined and was then euthanased. Out of interest I decided to post-mortem it and found the kidneys damaged beyond any possibility of normal function and covered in white lumps. Diagnosis: Cancer. The VLA are currently determining what type of cancer, but the time of first clinical sign to euthanasia was 10 days which is extremely quick. Fortunately this is a one off with no implications for the herd.