

West Lakeland Veterinary Group

Farm newsletter January 2017

Fluke

The SAC is reporting very high levels of acute fluke in sheep in the run up to Christmas, with this in mind it is widely recommended to treat at risk sheep this month. As we get near the end of January and into February it tends to be mainly adult fluke and so all flukicides should be effective at this point. Therefore, it would be recommended to consider switching away from triclabendazole at this time of year to for example closantel (Flukiver) to help minimise resistance. For further advice on this matter please speak to one of our vets.

E.coli infection in young lambs

With Christmas out the way Spring will be here before we know it, with some pedigree flocks already well into lambing. E.coli can be a well known problem at lambing time. It can cause several problems including watery mouth, navel ill, joint ill, scour, meningitis and septicaemia. The key areas for prevention of E.coli are:

Colostrum management- at least 210ml/kg liveweight within 24hrs of life and at least 50ml/kg within first 2 hours of life

Navel treatments- ensure navels are sprayed or dipped promptly after birth (dipping achieves greater coverage) with an antiseptic solution such as Iodine solution (branded dips range from 2-7% iodine)

Environmental hygiene- cleaning out individual lambing pens between lambs and ensuring lambing areas are well bedded with clean straw

Treatment/ preventative treatment: In some circumstances it can be necessary to treat lambs at birth to prevent watery mouth especially in the latter half of lambing by which time the contamination in the shed is likely to have built up. SAC have reported that resistance of E.coli in lambs last year was found to varying antibiotics with tetracyclines e.g. oxy-care being worst affected. Licensed treatments available include Spectam and orojet.

Report from our Johnes meeting in December-

A big thank you to everyone that attended our Johnes meeting at The Bridge inn kindly hosted by AHDB and sponsored by Boehringer (the makers of the new BVD live vaccine 'BOVELA'). We hope that everyone will agree the evening was a great success with around 50 farmers attending. In the first half of the Johnes talk Ruth focused on Johnes as a disease including

- The Pathogen Map- what it does and the sort of problems that Johnes can cause.
- How Johnes can be brought on to a farm (Biosecurity) and the risks for spread within a farm (Biocontainment).
- We also discussed Action Johnes the cross industry collaboration trying to encourage people to tackle Johnes (link at the bottom) and the 6 different control strategies.

In the second half of the talk Chris focused on testing for Johnes including the best place to start:

Dairy herds- 30 cow screen individual milk samples. Beef herds- blood sample possible clinical cases (scouring cow losing weight) And where you could go from there: Dairy- quarterly testing of all milking cows – individual milk samples. Beef- Annual blood sampling of cattle as part of the PCHS

Johnes is a complex issue and we are more than happy to offer advice on an individual basis- just ask. The link to the action Johnes website which can provide more details of the scheme is:

<http://www.actionjohnesuk.org/>