

ISSUE 66 Spring/Summer 2019

Livestock NEWS

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ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH AND PRODUCTIVITY

Staff News

Charlotte Pennington

A familiar face will be rejoining the farm team at Newbiggin on the 14th May, after being on maternity leave. We wish Charlotte the best of luck with her return to work.



Open Day to Gold Cup Winner



Paragon Vets will be attending the NMR/RABDF Gold Cup Open Day at Metcalfe Farms on Tuesday 18th June 2019. The focus of the day will be *"Progression for Succession"*.



To register please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nmrrabdf-gold-cup-open-day-2019-tickets-56921961118>

If you have registered to go and would like transport from the practice please let Dan know on 01228 710208.



By Jemma Reed

MilkSure is a training course and risk assessment for farmers to avoid medicines residues in milk. The most commonly found residues are antibiotics. MilkSure has been designed to help farmers use medicines most effectively as well as reducing residue risk.

The training comes in 2 parts. Part 1 is a 2 hour workshop at the practice. We have run 2 workshops so far at Dalston with 6 farmers attending each session.

The workshop is informal and discussion in style. There is a workbook that provides the frame work for the training and has information relevant to your own farm and helps improve understanding of medicine residues. Part 2 is with your routine vet on farm and involves a risk assessment to assess the main hazards for medicine residues and how to avoid them. There is then a short online assessment. Part 2 takes approximately 1.5 hours. Once passed the farm is then MilkSure accredited and the person completing the assessment receives a Certificate of Achievement.

There are several benefits to undertaking this course. These include reducing the risk of bulk tank failures and the costs incurred, using your veterinary medicines more efficiently, crucially demonstrating to your customers your commitment to producing pure, safe milk. Also, it fulfils the new Red Tractor requirements for medicine training and 7 DairyPro points are available per trainee.

Go to www.milksure.co.uk to register. The course must be completed within 3 months of registration.

If you have any questions about this course then please contact Jemma Reed or to register your interest in future workshops contact Karen McNeil on 01228 710208



TB surveillance in Badgers in East Cumbria

By Anne Abbs



DEFRA have now published the results of the badger control removal exercise in East Cumbria. A total of 363 badgers were tested and of these, 40 were found to be infected with TB – all with 17z, the previously identified genotype. The tested badgers were mainly those that were cage trapped as control shot (i.e. in the field) were deemed less suitable for testing.

Approximately 1 in 5 of badgers sampled in the core infected area were TB positive with just under half the parcels of land in that area that submitted badgers having at least one positive carcase. There were also 1.7% of badgers out with this area that were infected.

Further information and detail can be found on the Gov.uk website.

The findings indicate that continuing vigilance is needed to reduce cattle/badger contact, particularly in the up-coming grazing season. Please contact Anne if you wish to discuss measures that are available to do this.



*****Grass Staggers Warning*****

Spring has arrived and with turnout in full flow, we have seen a few cases of grass staggers recently. Grass staggers is caused by low Magnesium (Mg) in the blood and it is common in the Spring due to rapidly growing grass which is low in fibre and passes through the gut quickly reducing the time available for Mg to be absorbed. Cows need a daily intake of Mg as they are unable to store Mg in their body.

Signs to look out for include: twitching of muscle, teeth grinding, excitability or aggression, in-coordination – ‘staggering’, progression to seizure activity (paddling of limbs, sudden eye movements, frothy salivation) and sudden death.

If you are concerned or would like any advice on how to minimise the risk of grass staggers please give us a ring and chat to one of the vets.

Calf Health Checklist

By Jenna Hickson



New for 2019, the Calf Health Checklist has been developed in order to help Vets, Vet Techs and Farmers work more closely together to improve calf health and performance.

Dan Griffiths has been working closely with MSD Animal Health and a team of professionals to develop the checklist.

Happy, healthy calves can contribute to better feed conversion rates and DLWG (daily live weight gain). This in turn can help increase fertility, better milk yields, colostrum quality and can increase longevity of the cow. The age of first calving and finishing is important, heifers are more profitable if calving down at two years of age, but they need to be at least 85% of their mature size. Monitoring calf performance can help get to this target weight in optimum time. Beef cattle can take longer to finish which impacts on their profit return, due to housing, feed and labour costs. Hence, starting your calves right from day one is really important!

There are 5 key sections to the checklist. Here are some of the questions you may be asked...

Set Goals and Measure – Are you monitoring weight gain? Do you keep records on young stock, antibiotic treatment, and mortality? How accurate are calves fed milk replacer or whole milk?

Good Colostrum – Do you measure colostrum quality? How quickly after calving do you check the calf has fed? Do you clean the udder prior to collection of colostrum?

Good Nutrition – Is feeding equipment disinfected and cleaned? How consistent is milk feeding, are they fed the same times every day? Or ad lib? What forage is available to them?

Low Infection Pressure – Are calves removed from dam to a clean disinfected pen? How many calves receive pneumonia treatment before weaning? What vaccination programs are in place?

Healthy Environment – How are calves grouped? How often are they moved from different air space, same shed or different? What is the temperature and humidity? Are there drafts in the shed at calf level?

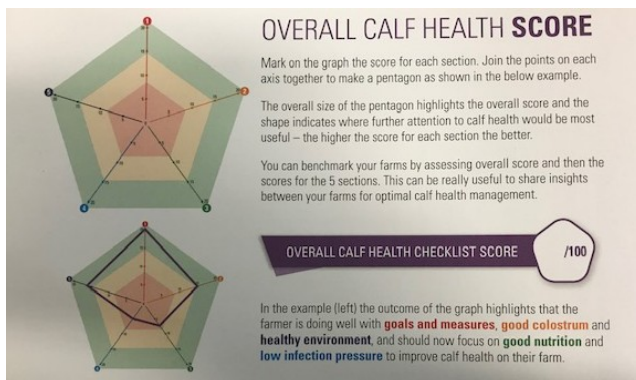




We also have a new environment box full of useful tools with which we can use to measure air speed, humidity, air movement and temperature, as well as calf weights and feed weights. There is also a colostrometer to check the quality of the colostrum.

To improve your calf health, it does not have to cost a lot of money, small changes can make a big difference.

These 5 sections mentioned above are added up so we can produce you an overall score out of 100.



Our aim would be to then look at the individual areas and see where improvements could be made.

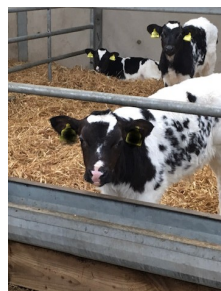
Competition Time!!

Do you want the chance to win a mystery prize?!

One of our farm team can help you carry out the checklist when we are out on calls or routine visits. We can discuss with you and advise small changes to help improve calf health.

We will be running 2 competitions, one for the highest overall score and another for the most improved after 6 months when we revisit the calf health checklist to see how you have got on.

If you are interested or would like more information, please get in touch with one of the farm team on 01228 710208.



Casualty Slaughter and Fitness to Travel

By Bruce Richards



We are sometimes asked to sign a “fit to travel” certificate, often requested by the knackerman or haulier and very often where they are not comfortable themselves at transporting the animal. Whilst we are happy to advise farmers and knackermen on whether an animal is fit to travel or not, there is no “fit to travel” certificate per se and the animal should travel under a Schedule 18 certificate which needs to be signed by the owner. There is space on the form where the veterinary diagnosis of the condition however guidelines on fitness to travel are clear and include *“an animal shall not be considered fit for its intended journey if it is ill, injured, infirm or fatigued, unless it is only slightly injured, ill, infirm or fatigued and the intended journey is not likely to cause it unnecessary suffering.”*

Please be aware that at times vets will advise against travel and that certification by a vet does not make an animal any fitter to travel.

With regards Casualty Slaughter on farm, the guidance is that animals that are suitable for on farm slaughter destined for the food chain must be fit for human consumption, have suffered a recent accident or injury that renders the animal unsuitable to travel and that the carcass will reach an abattoir within a certain timeframe. Animals affected by long term injuries (e.g. lameness) are not deemed to have suffered a recent injury and are thus ineligible for on farm slaughter to enter the food chain.

Foot Rot / Foul in the Foot study reminder

We have been asked to collect bacterial cultures from foot rot/ “fouls” cases in cattle. Where cases are appropriate, meet the criteria and are selected for sampling, the client will be reimbursed £25 for their contribution.

Please ask one of the vets for more information.



Sheep Discussion Group

Post Lambing and Lamb Growth

Date: Mon 13th May 2019, 7pm

Venue: Stoneybeck Inn, Bowscar,
Penrith, CA11 8RP

To book a place please contact the practice on 01228 710208



Upcoming Courses

3 DAY DIY AI AND CATTIE FERTILITY

Date: Tue 11th – Thur 13th June 2019

Venue: TBC

Cost: £525.00 + VAT

Limited spaces available

Please contact the practice to book a place

2 DAY FOOT TRIMMING COURSE **MASTERING MEDICINES COURSE**

Please get in touch to register
your interest.



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