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## APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

### NEMATODIRUS WARNING FOR LAMBS



**SCOPS** (the sustainable control of parasites in sheep) and **APHA Starcross** have recently issued a *Nematodirus* warning based on post-mortem findings and the recent and current weather forecasts. **We have also started seeing *Nematodirus* eggs in our own in-house worm egg counts.**

Clinical signs include a sudden onset profuse watery diarrhoea in young lambs, typically **6-12 weeks of age**, as they start to graze. Lambs are dull and depressed, stop sucking, and rapidly develop a gaunt appearance with obvious dehydration, condition loss and death.

**Eggs laid by last years' lambs typically\* hatch when temperatures reach 10°C or greater for a consistent period after overwintering**, exactly what we have seen recently. **Ideally move lambs to low-risk pastures** (i.e. pasture not grazed by lambs the previous spring). If you cannot avoid high risk pasture and you have a history of nematodirus on the farm, then preventative treatment is necessary. The damage is done by large numbers of immature larvae that are not producing eggs, so faecal egg counts (FECs) are not a reliable indicator of risk. In this case, **we recommend using a white (1-BZ) drench**. White drenches are still highly effective against nematodirus on most farms (unlike against the other gut worms) and are suitable for young lambs. It may be necessary to treat lambs more than once depending on the spread of ages in a group and subsequent weather conditions.

***Did you know we now carry a full range of wormer and fluke treatments? Combined with a faecal egg count, we can give tailored worming advice for your sheep and your farm. Ask for Endospec when treating *Nematodirus* in your lambs.***

\*Whilst this pattern is the most common, there are increasing reports of infections occurring throughout the summer and autumn (without the need for egg chilling first), likely as a response by the parasite to changing weather patterns.

### MEDICINE TRAINING MEETING (RED TRACTOR REQUIREMENT)

We are running another **medicine training day on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February at North Tawton Rugby Club**. The course will run from **10:30am to 3pm**, pasty lunch and other refreshments provided throughout the day. The cost for this course is £60 + VAT for first attendant from the farm and £30+ VAT for any additional attendants. This course has been approved by Red Tractor and everyone will receive a certificate of attendance.



**It is now a Red Tractor requirement that at least one person holds a certificate of competence in administering medicines.** Please register your interest with any of the branches. We typically run this course twice a year – let us know if you cannot attend this date but want to be informed ahead of the next meeting.

## USING ACTIVATED CHARCOAL TO ASSIST WITH SCOUR MANAGEMENT

Scour in young calves and lambs can be caused by a number of pathogens, including cryptosporidium, *E. coli* and rotavirus, or it may be non-pathogenic and simply nutritional. Maintaining hydration and electrolyte status with **Hydrafast** is essential, but a useful addition is **Charcovet gel**. Charcovet gel contains activated charcoal, which is shown to work against these pathogens in different ways and helps to reduce the severity of the scour by absorbing the toxin, which antibiotics are ineffective against.

Activated charcoal reduces the attachment of cryptosporidium to the gut lining, as well as absorbing bacteria and the toxins produced by bacteria and some viruses. These toxins damage cells in the gut lining, preventing it from absorbing water and nutrients. Antibiotics do not work on the toxins, but activated charcoal can adsorb both the bacteria and the toxins produced, and in many cases may be more beneficial than e.g., an antibiotic tablet. Speak to any of the farm team for further information.



## GET AHEAD OF BLOWFLY STRIKE & NUISANCE FLIES

As the weather now starts to warm up, we will soon start to see an increase in fly populations. To reduce the likelihood of associated clinical diseases (blowfly strike, summer mastitis, New Forest Eye disease, etc.) it is important to “get ahead” of the fly population and consider putting in prevention strategies from now.

For **cattle**, topical permethrin (e.g. **Flypor**) has 8 weeks action or deltamethrin (e.g. **Dectospot**) typically offers 4-8 weeks of protection. Alternatively, **Electron Fly Tags** (cypermethrin) can be applied to the ear, with one tag usually sufficient to achieve acceptable levels of fly control throughout the season, however two are sometimes needed where head and face fly attack is very severe.

For **sheep**, the **CLiK range** is an effective preventative if given in a timely manner and applied correctly with the fan-spray nozzle. CLiK is an insect growth regulator; it does not stop the fly laying eggs, but it does stop the harmless first stage larvae developing into the damaging second and third stage maggots, thus preventing strike. Where broader ectoparasite prevention is also required, such as tick control, **ectofly or crovect** can also be used.

*Speak to us today for information as to the most suitable products and strategy for your farm. We are now also supplying these products on a next day basis.*

**DAIRY FARMERS** – we have just started using **Total Vet**, a herd data analysis software for mastitis and fertility, amongst others. The software accepts electronic data from a variety of on-farm and central databases (including CDL files, Interherd, GEA DairyPlan C21, UNIFORM Agri, any SUM-IT on farm software (e.g. Total Dairy), Gatling files, and more).

Total Vet analyses data rapidly and consistently, providing ongoing monitoring of herd health and production as well as initial diagnosis of herd health disorders. Please provide us with access to this data so that we can improve our overall services to you and your animals.



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