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MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER

SEVERE SUMMER SCOUR SYNDROME & IDIOPATHIC NECROTISING ENTERITIS

The Cattle Expert Group at APHA (including Starcross lab) would like to highlight two diseases which might be encountered over the next two to three months:

- **Severe Summer Scour Syndrome** has been recognised since 2018. This is a syndrome of diarrhoea and rapid loss of condition, affecting **first season grazing dairy calves**, with clinical signs beginning **within a month of turnout to grass**. It is unresponsive to treatment (including worming) and in most cases recognised bacterial, parasitic and viral causes have not been detected. Morbidity (the number of animals affected in a group) is generally high. Some of these cases feature oral and oesophageal ulceration and necrosis.
- **Idiopathic Necrotising Enteritis (INE)** most commonly affects **suckler calves of 6 to 12 weeks old**. The main presenting signs are also diarrhoea (often grey colour) and oral ulceration; ulceration of the small intestine is characteristically identified post-mortem. Other less common presentations are respiratory signs, high temperatures, or found dead with no signs observed. Morbidity is low, although there is a high fatality rate.

If you experience any of these signs on your farm, please contact us, as Starcross want to investigate further to try and find any underlying causes. As for many diseases, it is important to investigate these cases early in the course of the disease. Free of charge testing at Starcross would be available for appropriate cases.

As lambing draws to a close, we reflect on a very busy spring and a large number of **abortions** this year. Most have been due to enzootic abortion. **Vaccination** is key on these farms to prevent further problems next year. Enzootic is brought on to the farm by buying-in infected replacements, so all flocks (except closed flocks) are at risk and should consider vaccination. **Remember that subsidised testing for enzootic abortion and toxoplasma is available.**



Throughout May and June, **XLFarmCare will be auditing the vets at some TB tests**. We will endeavour to let you know if this will occur on your farm, however do not worry – they are not interested in your farm or livestock, they are purely there to ensure the vets are testing correctly!

TRYMOX WITHDRAWAL PERIOD CHANGES

Please note these are now:

- Cattle – meat 39 days; milk 108 hours
- Sheep – meat 29 days • Pigs – meat 42d

TICK BORNE DISEASES – Once again, tick borne diseases (including tick borne fever and louping ill) have started in earnest and ahead of the 'expected' or 'normal' tick season. There is no treatment for these diseases, so prevention is key by repelling and/or rapidly killing ticks before they have the opportunity to infect livestock. An appropriate tick treatment, such as spot-on, pour-on or OP dipping, should be administered and *repeated* at the relevant recommended interval *throughout* the season to at-risk stock. The season is *probably* up to and including October, based on timings of the outbreaks that we have dealt with over the past couple of years across the practice area, from moorland farms to lowland farms on good pasture.



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