

Shepton Vets Newsletter

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CHANGES TO LIVER FLUKE TREATMENT

This is a high risk year for fluke. We have already had one herd in the practice with a clinical outbreak this autumn resulting in the loss of several cows.

Licensing changes mean that Trodax can no longer be used in dairy cows even at dry off. We now recommend treatment with ENDOSPEC oral drench, at a dose rate of 75mls for an adult cow. This will only kill adult fluke and has milk withdrawal of just 60 hrs. We recommend using it at drying off or at calving. On farms that are experiencing clinical liver fluke problems it may be necessary to give repeat treatments to bring the disease under full control.



ENDOSPEC is now available from the practice and costs £2.10 per cow. It is available in 2.5, 5 and 10 litre packs.

LOCATIM ~ COLOSTRUM ANTIBODY SUBSTITUTE

Remember that to get healthy productive calves you have to ensure the best possible transfer of immunity by getting the 3 Qs right - quantity, quality, quickly. Calves should receive at least 4 litres of good quality colostrum within the first 6 hours of birth.

Colostrometers are a quick and cheap way of checking colostrum quality. Heifers and cows can produce poor quality colostrum that will not provide adequate antibodies for the calf. This is common in heifers and high yielding cows and cows that have been leaking milk before calving.

LOCATIM is a high quality colostrum substitute produced from cows which are free from all disease. LOCATIM, like colostrum, has to be given as soon as possible after birth ideally within 6 hours. It contains no nutritional value whatsoever, it's just concentrated antibody, and so the calf will still need colostrum for it's nutritional value.

We see LOCATIM being used in Friesian heifer calves born to heifers, sexed semen calves or any calves born to animals where the quality of the colostrum is in doubt. The price is £16.50 per dose, a small amount in relation to the value of a heifer

The golden rules for LOCATIM are;

- ◆ It MUST be stored in a fridge
- ◆ It has a long shelf life
- ◆ One bottle per calf as a drench
- ◆ Give as soon as possible after birth
- ◆ LOCATIM is now in stock in the practice.



Seasons greetings to you and yours!

MEDICINES COURSE ~ 11th JANUARY 2011

Peter Edmondson is running another medicine course at the practice on **11th January** from 11 to 2.30. The cost is £50 including lunch and notes. We are running these monthly and want ALL our clients to come. Only 8 on each course. We deal with YOUR problems and concerns.

Farmer comments from the first course

..... ***Absolutely brilliant, everyone should come on this course!***

..... ***I have just reduced my medicine bill!!***"

..... ***Really practical advice***

..... ***I will be able to reduce the number of antibiotic treatments on my farm***

The course will cover a variety of topics including:

- ◆ When to treat and when NOT to treat with antibiotics
- ◆ How do you know what's wrong with your cow?
- ◆ The most effective treatment regimes for common conditions in cows and calves
- ◆ How much, how often and how long?
- ◆ Pain relief ~ what is it? Does it work? When should I use it?

Please contact Cathy to book your place on these courses. Places are limited, and if we are full we will book you onto the next one. Book early!

WINTER DISCUSSION GROUP ~ 10th JANUARY

On 10 January the Discussion Group will be meeting at the Pilton Working Mens Club at 7.30pm to discuss Bovine TB. The meeting will look at what the future holds for Bovine TB, whether the Government will permit a badger cull and how this might be implemented. Discussion will also cover the best practice on farm to reduce the risk of TB as well as looking at who will be carrying out TB tests in the future.

As usual food will be provided, and places are limited. This is always a very popular topic, so book early to ensure your spot - speak to Cathy at the practice.

BEDDING MATTERS

Managing bedding and having clean cows is key to reducing clinical mastitis cases. Here are a few points from Peter Edmondson and Roger Blowey's recent mastitis seminar for vets:

- **Sand** - Remember that when sand turns black or any other colour, it must be replaced as it's benefit is gone. Aerate and move sand two or three times a week.
- **Straw yards** - 15 – 20 Kgs of straw per cow per day for a straw yard. Bed up with DRY straw daily and clean out every 2 to 3 weeks. The most expensive way to bed your cows.
- **Sawdust** - Only use kiln dried sawdust. Fresh sawdust is cheap but ferments and Klebsiella will start to grow. When you put this on the beds then you are creating mastitis.
- **Gypsum bedding** - Quite cheap to buy but is very dusty. It also creates hydrogen sulphide in slurry which can be very smelly and so you must ensure that when agitating tank no people or animals are in the way (There have been fatalities in sealed sheds).
- **Ash** - A by-product that MUST be mixed with straw, sawdust or sand. It has a high pH so is good at killing *S. uberis* and the like. There is the risk of burns on teat skin due to high pH and so you must have a full routine for teat preparation before milking to avoid teat burn.