

NEWSLETTER

The latest from the South Moor Farm team



CALF PNEUMONIA

We have seen a large increase in the number of pneumonia cases in calves over the last few weeks. Pneumonia remains one of the **most significant** health and welfare challenges affecting calves. The recent mild but wet climate especially during housing periods, creates ideal conditions for respiratory disease to spread.

In cattle, pneumonia is caused by a large group of bugs including both viruses such as IBR, PI3 and RSVV as well as bacterial causes – mycoplasma, pasteuruella, manhemia, histophilus. Quite often they combine to cause trouble.

Early signs include lethargy, reduced appetite, nasal discharge, coughing, increased breathing rate and poor growth. Identifying sick animals and treating promptly is essential, as delayed action can lead to lung damage, reduced performance and increased mortality.

Prevention is more effective and economical than treatment. Good ventilation without draughts, appropriate stocking rates, effective colostrum management and minimising stress are critical control measures. Vaccination programmes, tailored to the farm, can significantly reduce disease impact.

If you are suffering with pneumonia at the minute give us a call – or even if you'd like to make a plan to deal with future potential outbreaks.

Please note the AHWP scheme is still running. This would pay for a free journey and vet time to discuss your system and how we could tweak it to reduce the risk of pneumonia on your farm.

ARE YOU READY FOR LAMBING?

Lambing may be just around the corner for many of you (who haven't started already!) so now is a good time to start getting prepared.

Prep

We would strongly recommend having a stock of long gloves, to keep things clean when you may have to give the ewe a helping hand. Lambing foot ropes and a head snare (or two!) are invaluable bits of kit as they make correcting a malpresentation much easier, alongside a good stock of lubrication.

Medication

An ewe that has struggled giving birth would often benefit from some anti-inflammatories (animeloxan) and sometimes some antibiotics if it was particularly traumatic or you have needed to intervene. Please ring us if you think this is the case or have any other questions.

Colostrum

In the first few days of lambing it's also a good idea to get some extra colostrum from some of your ewes with good milk. The ewe's own colostrum is best for their own lamb but it's always good to have a backup. Freeze the bags flat so they warm up more evenly, and bring them up to temperature slowly in a warm water bath – never microwave. This colostrum should be given to the lambs following the 4Q's. The correct Quantity should be given Quickly – 50 ml/kg body weight within the first 2 hours, and it should be of good Quality, with all equipment being kept squeaky clean!

POST MORTEM MEETING SUCCESS



Thank you to everyone that came to our post mortem demonstration @ Cremtor.

We had a brilliant and insightful demo by Ben Strugnell and lots of great conversation about what can be seen when post morteming. A massive thank you also goes to Credition Milling & AHDB for sponsoring!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Red Tractor Medicine training -

- Wednesday 14th January
- Ivybridge branch, Endsleigh, Cadleigh Pk, Ivybridge PL21 9JL
- 1 - 2pm

Please let us know if you would like to attend!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



We wanted to wish everyone a very Happy New Year filled with good health, strong herds, steady yields, and also thank you for your continued trust and support.

All the best from The Southmoor Farm Team!



CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS

Is the word that brought fear to the population of Brixham and Kingswear when 10,000 people were advised to boil their water.

"Cryptosporidium Parvum" is a protozoan which causes disease to calves less than 6 weeks old; generally scour. but it can cause death. Yellow Diarrhoea, a temperature, dehydration and pain are all common symptoms.

It can come from many sources including other cattle, wildlife, flies, drinking water, the environment, and also humans.

Statistically it is now the commonest cause of diarrhoea in young calves. C.Parvum multiplies rapidly and huge numbers of oocysts are shed. These rapidly cause disease. Only 10 cysts are needed and a calf can produce billions in 2-7 days. The organism resists common disinfectants and temperature change. It will survive for a long time in a cool moist situation, for example a year in soil and four in water. An accurate diagnosis is essential - we have a "pen slide" faeces test which also includes E Coli K99, Corona virus (!) and Rotavirus.

Treatment options are limited and we have two main drugs - Cryptozin, and separate antibiotics. Cryptozin is used as a preventative and a treatment for 7 days. It is toxic if overdosed.

Vaccination is the route of choice if there is a known farm problem. Bovilis Cryptium is given during pregnancy in the last trimester. Two S/C doses are given 4 weeks apart, the second at least 3 weeks before calving. A single annual booster is advised. 3 litres of colostrum must be fed within the first 6 hours of life. All calves should have the colostrum and then transition onto milk for 5 days.

To reduce environmental contamination keep calf pens clean. Steam cleaning kills oocysts. Mucking out, hosing down and disinfection reduces parasite numbers. Deep straw bedding keeps calves away from faeces. Manure and slurry must be stored properly; ideally for 12 months before spreading.

Keep animals in similar age groups, and quarantine scouring calves until 7 days after they are better.

IVYBRIDGE: 01752 892390

DARTINGTON: 01803 900181

KINGSBRIDGE: 01548 852766

MODBURY: 01548 830210

farm@southmoorvets.co.uk



**South Moor
Farm Vets**

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