

Mastitis Control With QuarterPRO!

Mastitis analysis by QuarterPRO is an initiative that aims to help farms achieve continuous improvement in mastitis control and udder health on farm leading to more saleable milk, higher milk quality, improved cow welfare and less antibiotic use. The software uses milk recording data and clinical mastitis data to help identify the major mastitis infection pattern on your farm, and can put in place targeted control measures specific to your herds mastitis pattern. Quarterly reviews can track progress and review management to keep on top of things, and monitor for any changes. To carry out the analysis, we need 18 months recordings of clinical mastitis, and 18 months of milk recording. Get in touch with the practice if interested.



A New Face on the Team!

Many of you will already have met our newest member of the team, Rachel who grew up on a dairy farm in Yorkshire. Throughout University she worked on farms in New Zealand and the U.S. before graduating from Liverpool University in 2020. Since then she has worked in North Wales and North Yorkshire before coming up to join us in rainy South West Scotland. Rachel is keen to be involved in all aspects of farm animal medicine and surgery but her specific interests lie in nutrition, transition cow management and respiratory health. Outside of work Rachel enjoys socialising with YFC, playing tennis and getting out in the hills with her terrier.



Ark Vets all new Farm Facebook

Please feel free to head over and check out our new Facebook page where we will endeavour to keep you updated in all areas of farm medicine as well as to let you know about events, talks and maybe even some case studies! Feel free to leave us a like too!

Check us out at - <https://www.facebook.com/Ark-Vet-Centre-Farm-242491127666542>



enquiries@arkvetcentre.co.uk
www.arkvetcentre.co.uk



Ark Vet Centre

Your farm's health is in our hands.



Spring 2022 Newsletter



Welcome to our spring newsletter! With lambing and calving season well underway we are enjoying our busiest time of year which has been made even better with the glorious weather we've been getting recently.

Spring is a high stress time for livestock with lambing, calving and also thinking about preventative medicine for the year ahead. This month we will discuss suckler cow nutrition around calving as well as preventative vaccines for both lungworm and clostridial disease

Maximising Fertility & Growth in Young Suckler Cows!

It's well recognised now that the most profitable age to calf heifers is at 24 months. It is however, essential to get their nutrition right post-calving. Lactation has a greater energy requirement than pregnancy and after calving a heifer must rear a calf, recover from calving and go back in calf, and **continue to grow**. If her dietary requirements are not met post-calving, she may fail to rebreed, her calf may have reduced growth-rates and her own growth may be stunted. It's quite common to find poor scanning results in this age group in late summer, and inadequate nutrition will generally be the cause. Cows that have completed growing (>48 months) do not have the same dietary demands, and therefore first and possibly even second calvers should be managed separately to the rest of the adult herd.



Both energy and protein supply must be maximized to meet the growing young cows' needs which can be helped with:

- Better grazing being saved for this management group
- If good grazing not available then supplementing with concentrates or superior forage. Forage quality and palatability is vital in housed animals as intakes are low relative to the energy demand after calving.
- Avoiding overstocking and ensuring a good availability of feed face space to maximise intakes, as social hierarchy affects feeding behaviour amongst young cows.
- A good supply of protein is needed in the ration for both growth and milk quality. Good grazing should generally provide sufficient daily levels of protein, however housed animals on poor quality forage may be deficient so supplementing with sources of protein via concentrates should be considered e.g. soya/rape meal.

Clostridial Disease in Sheep



Clostridial diseases is one of the most common causes of sudden death in all ages of sheep and are very easily prevented by means of vaccination. The clostridial organisms are found in the soil, surface water, spoiled feed, rotting vegetation and decomposing animal matter where they survive for a long period of time. Clostridial organisms are also naturally found in the gut of sheep. Sheep can be infected with various clostridial diseases with the most common being lamb dysentery, tetanus, pulpy kidney, black disease and blackleg.

- **Lamb Dysentery** (*Clostridium perfringens* type B): This affects young lambs up to 3 weeks of age and is usually associated with poor lambing hygiene. Symptoms include blood diarrhoea, stomach pain and anorexia and die within hours.
- **Pulpy Kidney** (*Clostridium perfringens* type D): It affects the largest, fastest growing lambs over one month of age and causes a toxic reaction in the gut often associated with a sudden diet change. Most will be found dead but if seen early enough will show signs of ataxia, collapse and convulsions.
- **Blackleg** (*Clostridium chauveii*): Blackleg causes sheep to have a sudden onset lameness or stiff stilted gait and are very dull with a high fever. The organism can infect the animal via skin wounds, dog bites, untreated umbilicus etc.
- **Tetanus** (*Clostridium tetani*): This is usually related to docking and castrating by elastrator bands but any wound can harbour tetanus organism. Signs usually start from 4 days to 3 weeks after infection. Symptoms include a stiff gate, third eyelid protrusion and straight legs held out.
- **Black Disease** (*Clostridium novyi*): Black disease occurs in sheep in areas where liver flukes are known to occur. The organism becomes active when the liver tissue damaged by the liver fluke.

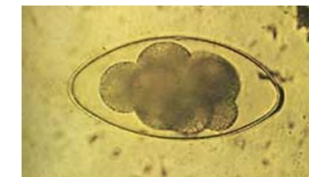
In all the diseases described above, treatment is usually unsuccessful and losses can occur in great numbers in the face of an outbreak. As with much of farm animal medicine, vaccination is better than cure and it is a quick, easy and cost effective way of preventing clostridial disease. There are many different vaccines on the market but nearly all cover a variety or all of the above diseases. A primary vaccination course of two doses of vaccine four to six weeks apart and then a booster every 12 months is required. Generally farmers are advised to vaccination their ewes four weeks before lambing. Vaccinating around this time as well as adequate nutrition and supplementation will ensure that the ewes have plenty antibodies in their colostrum to pass onto lambs giving up to 12 weeks protection. Lambs themselves can be given its primary course at 3 weeks of age followed by vaccine 4-6 weeks later.



Nematodirus—Be on the Lookout



Nematodirus battus is a worm that can cause severe diarrhoea and sudden death in young lambs. A few cases of nematodirus have already been diagnosed in Scotland this spring, as early as the middle of March! Recent weather conditions – warm weather following a cold spell – can lead to a mass hatching event from eggs shed on pasture last year. This can be a problem if it coincides with lambs beginning to graze significantly, usually at around 6 weeks of age.



If possible, lambs should be grazed on pasture that hasn't been grazed by lambs last year, and therefore is low risk. Alternatively, if not possible an appropriate wormer should be administered. A white drench is generally recommended but speak to one of the vets if you want more advice. You can also visit the SCOPS Nematodirus Forecast to gain an into the future risk on your farm.

Lungworm

Lungworm was very prevalent at a national level late last summer and is a very unpredictable disease that is difficult to manage with grazing and dosing strategies alone. With farmers using long lasting anthelmintics prior to turnout as their lungworm control, or repeated use of anthelmintics throughout the grazing season, cattle do not gain natural immunity – resulting in naive cattle being exposed to lungworm when grazing periods are extended or the wormers efficacy has run out.



Now is the time to start your lung worm prevention for the grazing months. For farms with a history of lungworm, or farms in a high risk area, such as South West Scotland, 2 doses of Huskvac given orally to any cattle over 8 weeks of age can provide excellent protection for animals during their first grazing season and reduces the need for anthelmintic use. Re-exposure during the following grazing season will top up their immunity, meaning no need for a booster dose. Get in touch with the practice to order your Huskvac now.