

Fluke Questions To Think About....

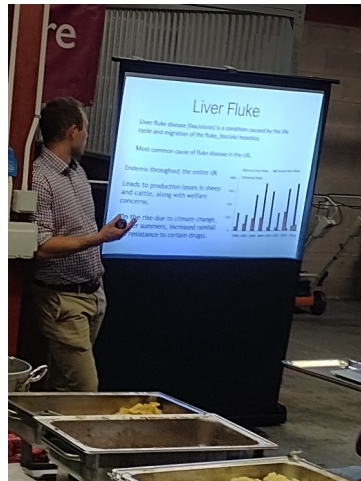


We had a great sheep farmer meeting on Fluke in October.

Liver fluke leads to losses of £3-£5 per infected sheep, due to acute death, poor growth rates, reduced fertility and abattoir condemnation.

We offer in-house faecal egg counts for liver fluke. This is a great way to identify adult liver fluke in the flock with a very quick turnaround time. This will pick up fluke from 10 weeks post exposure.

Many clients are also opting to use blood ELISA tests in springborn lambs to pick up infection from 2-4 weeks. Alternatively, you can hand in a faecal sample for a coproantigen test from any age of sheep to find infection down to five weeks. These tests are both performed by the SRUC at Dumfries.



****Key Points To Remember****

- Know your test of choice
 - Know your product
 - Reserve triclabendazole
- Avoid high risk ground at high risk times of year



enquiries@arkvetcentre.co.uk



Ark Vet Centre

Your farm's health is in our hands.



Autumn 23 Newsletter



Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter.

In this issue we will be looking at pneumonia in cattle, fluke information and an update on a busy time at our sheep fertility service.

What Has Been Happening?

It has been an interesting few months here at Ark Vet Centre.

We have been seeing quite a few outbreaks of pneumonia so far this year so please have a good read of our article on the 5 point approach

We have not seen much fluke so far but beware that this is probably still to come!



We welcomed our new vet Peter who joined us this summer after graduating from Cambridge Vet School. Outside of work he enjoys socialising and country pursuits so please say hello to him.

**Farm Animal Same Day
Faecal Egg Count Service**

Submit samples on a **Wednesday before 12pm**
for same day results

12:00 PM

Don't forget about our same day faecal egg count service. Drop off on a Wednesday before 12noon!

 **Ark Vet Centre**
Your farm's health is in our hands.

Pneumonia

With winter drawing in, we have recently been seeing more cases of calf pneumonia across the practice, both in suckler and dairy. Pneumonia can cause significant financial losses, both from individual deaths and reduced weight gains in affected animals and calves that recover often have extensive long-term lung damage. This means that prevention is better than treatment. The 5-point approach is a good starting point for reducing the impact of pneumonia in a herd.

1) Review colostrum management.

As with many diseases, antibodies passed from the cow to the calf through colostrum are vital for protecting calves over the first weeks of life. Colostrum needs to follow the 3 Qs – Quickly, Quantity and Quality. Ideally each calf should get 10% of their bodyweight in colostrum within 6 hours of birth.

2) Review nutrition

Making sure calves have good nutrition (both quality and quantity) will give them enough energy to fight off infections and grow at the same time. Encouraging increased intake of hard feed and roughage before weaning is essential to keep energy intakes up once they are off milk.

3) Improve the environment

Some causes of pneumonia are always present in the wider environment, and will easily spread in the right conditions. The main ways of reducing the risk of this are:

Ventilation to provide clean, dry, draft-free air. Stale air can allow pathogens to spread between calves and can irritate the airways, predisposing calves to infections.

Good dry bedding. This should be enough for the calves to nest into to keep warm.

4) Reduce stress

Stress reduces the ability of the immune system to fight off disease. This could be due to castration/disbudding, re-grouping calves, overcrowding or weaning. Anti-inflammatory drugs such as Meloxidyl given at castration/disbudding have been shown to decrease stress and increase weight gains immediately afterwards, not least because the calves return to normal feed intake much faster.

5) Vaccination

Vaccines are helpful to reduce the risk of disease during the main risk periods for pneumonia. A vaccine course 2-3 weeks before any identified risk period will give optimal protection. Modified live intranasal vaccines give quick protection and effective in calves from 9 days old, intramuscular injectable vaccines are suitable for older calves. There are many different options for vaccines, to find out more about the best options for your farm please speak to one of the vets



Sheep Fertility Service Update

Colin and our team had a successful season with the sheep fertility service that we offer. Our main sheep season is coming to a close now, but we have had promising preliminary results with 85% embryos holding so far.

We are offering winter flushing dates - so feel free to contact the practice to hear more about our service.

Remember to like our Ark Vet Centre – Farm Facebook page to keep updated on meetings, Information and all things farm

