



DAIRY PRODUCT UPDATE ****IMRESTOR****

You may remember a new product launched last year IMRESTOR.

Here's a reminder...

It is not an antibiotic or a vaccine. Around calving, stresses and negative energy balance depress a cows natural defences; Imrestor™ (pegbovigrastim) acts against this dip, boosting the immune system, specifically the number and strength of white blood cells which are responsible for protection against a broad range of mastitis causing bacteria. It is currently licensed to reduce mastitis in dairy herds. Two doses are injected, one 7-days before expected calving and one within 24 hours of calving.

1 Year On: Within Practice User Feedback..

The product on launch was relatively costly in context to milk ppl at the time, and so as a completely novel product the initial uptake of usage was poor despite potentially being of great benefit. Since then the ppl has been slowly improving and in spring of this year we were able to enter multiple of our practice dairy farms into a field trial of the product. Trial farms are using IMRESTOR on every other cow around calving and recording mastitis and other health events such as whites, retained cleansings etc. This trial lasts for 6months and is going on in dairy herds across the UK with around 30,000 cows enrolled. We are currently around half-way through the trial period and whilst we must wait until the end for definite results, the current results are very impressive and highly convincing that Imrestor has a very positive effect on mastitis, post calving infectious disease and fertility. A number of farms have been so impressed that they have left the study in order to use Imrestor on every cow. We are looking forward to seeing the end results.. *to be continued..*



Elanco

Imrestor™



SHEEP FERTILITY TUP TIPS

A working tup is essential for a good lamb crop. The process of production of sheep sperm within the testes takes 45 days, this means if a ram has a few days of lameness or fever it can damage his current sperm and will take a minimum of 7 weeks before he can be fertile again and that is assuming he recovers immediately.

In most cases if there has been such an insult it can be picked up on a physical examination.

We recommend that each tup is presented for a fertility physical (this includes measurement and palpation of testes/penis/body condition/teeth/feet). Where there are any doubts about a tups' fertility before or during the tupping period we can also assess semen samples.

In cases where sheep are being synchronized it is essential to know the fertility status of tups, or all that preparation of ewes/teasers and cost of any drugs maybe totally wasted. Sub fertile tups often 'hide' where there are multiple tups out meaning your good tup is being stressed by overwork whilst you are feeding and maintaining a dud!

TUP FERTILITY PHYSICAL £15.75 +VAT per TUP

**1st TUP PHYSICAL & FULL SEMEN EXAMINATION
£47.25 +VAT
(ADDITIONAL TUPS £26.25 +VAT per TUP)**

SHEEP FERTILITY FOR EWE



Whether breeding within or earlier than the natural breeding season there are many advantages in synchronizing your ewes for a more compact lambing season. Synchronizing can be achieved by use of teaser rams or use of 'ewe sponges' which bring all the ewes into the same point of their cycle.

Synchronizing ewes many benefits include:

- Easier management of feeding required as ewes should be at similar stages of pregnancy – reduced number of tail end problem ewes fat from feeding too soon (especially if not scanning).
- Reducing period where extra labour is required for new-born lambs and lambing ewes whilst increasing attention given
- Reduced time for disease build up in the lambing area
- More evenly sized batches of lambs for selling
- Less small tail enders needing stored or dropping pen price
- Fattening lambs earlier to achieve spring lamb prices
- Closer ages of lambs making it easier to get vaccine and parasite treatment timings correct and reduced weigh range of lambs improving dosing accuracy and efficiency.

It is ESSENTIAL to consider your EWE:TUP ratio if synchronizing. Sponges ideally require a 1:10 ratio, whilst with teasers rams 1:35 is acceptable. If you'd like to try synchronization please call for advice for your flock.

The First Scottish Vet Fair

All UK practicing vets are required to complete 35+ hours of continuing veterinary education each year to keep up to date on any advancements in our areas of expertise. This year for the first, Scotland hosted a full weekend of lectures for vets in the form of 'The Scottish Vet Fair' which provided a full timetable for Farm, Equine and Small Animal vets respectively.

The conference was held at Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire and MBM Veterinary Group was privileged enough to provide 4 Certificate holding practitioners to present a number of talks over the weekend.

We would like to congratulate and acknowledge Mark Crawshaw and Michael Fallon for their very well received talks on Bovine Respiratory Disease, Management of Displaced Abomasums and Suckler Herd Fertility.

MBMs' Equine vet Jamie Wallace and Small Animal Rhona Mortimer also presented both days and there was a great atmosphere of engagement.



A CASE TO REMEMBER... BEWARE THE HOOSE

This is LUNGWORM SEASON; recalling a serious outbreak this time last year has some lessons!

This case occurred in the third week of September in a large group of 6 month heifer **stirks turned out for the first in late August into permanent pasture vacated by older heifers** that were moved onto foggage. These 40 stirks were treated for pneumonia to no avail with deaths occurring shortly after. Patent lungworm was confirmed by post mortem and many of the survivors failed to achieve target bulling weights on time.

The story highlights important aspects of lungworm, this year may be particularly high risk due to a wet grazing season and unexpected movements of stock around pastures:-

- Lungworm larval levels on pasture are **high from mid grazing season (July)**
- The most severe cases occur when non-immune stock meet a high challenge
- The pre-patent period (time from first ingesting larvae off pasture to having adult lungworm present in the airways Fig.1) can be as short as three weeks, and as in the recalled case respiratory signs can occur before this, when lungworm larvae are migrating through the lungs.
- Even after anthelmintic treatment up to 25% of animals may develop serious and permanent lung damage (post patent hoose), some may require antibiotics.
- So when young stock are being moved always consider their likely immune status to lungworm i.e. have they been exposed the previous season or vaccinated? And consider the likely challenge on the fresh pasture; has there been older animals grazing it earlier in the season.
- Some anthelmintics have persistent action against lungworm (Ivermectin 3 weeks, Dectomax plus moxidectin 6 weeks) if unsure how long your animals will be protected with the drug your using please call us.
- Moxidectin 10% injection(CYDECTIN) relies on an expected high level of exposure through grazing to still allow lungworm immunity to develop. So youngstock still may risk succumbing to disease or failing to become immune if the grazing challenge was insufficient. This then leads to uncertainty as to immune status for the next season.
- The above complexities are leading to increasing use of **Huskvac lungworm vaccine**, this is a safe and proven method of ensuring adequate exposure for protection used in replacement animals.
- Autoworm boluses also rely on a sufficiently high pasture challenge for development of immunity so again can result in an uncertain lungworm immunity for the next year.



Fig 1. ADULT LUNGWORM IN AIRWAYS



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