

PARKVIEW NEWSLETTER OCTOBER



VACCINATIONS

A lot of cattle have already been housed as a result of the wet weather, and more will be housed shortly. Maybe you have bought weanlings or stores at the mart or are planning to.

Have you thought about vaccination for pneumonia?

Vaccination has an important part to play in the control of respiratory disease and should be viewed along with good husbandry, not an alternative.

Vaccination is not a magic solution, but it will raise the immunity of the cattle to a level that will enable the animal to cope a lot better when faced with a disease challenge.

Pneumonia results from bacteria and viruses infecting the lungs, and the effects are well known, from acutely ill animals which may or may not survive, to markedly reduced feed intakes and growth rates and chronic poor-doers.

There are a wide range of vaccines available, and it is best to discuss with one of our vets as to which would be the best regime for your herd, to offer the best protection. Different age groups of cattle and management systems require different vaccination regimes.

As with all vaccines, the storage is crucial, and vaccines that are exposed to temperatures above that recommended may be of no use whatsoever.

Vaccination is an important part of keeping your herd healthy, but it is only part. Good husbandry is crucial, and if it is not in place then you can vaccinate till the cows come home – literally! And you won't be making any progress.

The basics sometimes fall by the wayside- **WARM, DRY, CLEAN BED, and GOOD NUTRITION** are essential.

GRASS TETANY -We are seeing an increase in grass tetany cases at the minute both in suckler cows and dairy cows. The bad weather, coupled with any stress such as weaning or moving can trigger a sudden depletion in Magnesium reserves in cattle resulting in tetany. Pastures that have been heavily fertilised or not had lime applied are high risk.



Daily supplementation is required during the risk period. Mineral licks are generally not sufficient for the whole herd as not all animals will use them. Providing up to 2kg of concentrate or even hay or good straw can help prevent tetany.

Magnesium boluses and dusting pasture with Magnesium Oxide (0.5 kg per cow) at intervals of 1-2 weeks can also be used.

FLUKE



Sheep are prone to acute and subacute fluke disease in autumn and early winter, resulting in weight loss, scouring, swelling under jaw, jaundice or even sudden death. Triclabendazole (where there is no known resistance) is the drug of choice for late summer/autumn, and sheep on high risk pasture may need repeated dosing monthly. Low risk pasture - a single dose pre-tupping may be sufficient followed by strategic dosing over the winter around every 10 weeks. Alternative products include Flukiver (closantel), Trodax (nitroxynil) or Zaniil (oxyclosanide). Chronic fluke disease may not show obvious clinical signs but can manifest with reduced scanning percentages and poor lambing performance.

Abattoir records are often under used but provide accurate prevalence levels. Also, from December onwards, pooled faecal egg counts give a good indication and can also detect the presence of rumen fluke.



CATTLE – all bought in stock should be dosed initially. Cattle can be dosed at housing during high risk periods and again 8 weeks later with a suitable product. Another dose can be given in January/February to reduce pasture contamination when turned out. In dairy herds, milk withdrawal times and calving dates will determine timing of dosing.

